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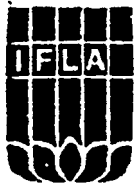
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## ABSTRACT

Fifteen papers delivered for the Division of General Research Libraries at the 1992 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions annual meeting are presented. These papers deal with national libraries, parliamentary (legislative) libraries, and university libraries. The papers are: (1) "Seeking Alternatives to National Libraries" (E. W. B. Williams); (2) "The Role of National Library as a Bibliographic Centre in a Multi-Lingual Situation: The Indian Context" (K. Dasgupta); (3) "Developmental Strategies of Computerized Legislative Information Services" (K. M. Ku); (4) "The Russian Parliamentary Library: Its History, Functions and Proposed Automation" (J. Shraiberg); (5) "Rethinking a Library: Knowledge for Legislators and the Library of Congress of Chile" (X. Feliu, M. Delano); (6) "Parliament of India and Information Management" (C. K. Jain); (7) "Information Services in a University Library--Will the 21st Century Bring Us Anything Different or Will It Be More of the Same" (A. J. Evans); (8) "The Changing Role of the University Library--Crafting a More Effective Role for the Library" (F. K. Groen); (9) "University Libraries in India" (K. A. Isaac); (10) "Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Services to Members of Parliament in India" (G. C. Malhotra); (11) "Tripura Legislative Assembly Library: A Study" (S. Debnath); (12) "Library and Information Services in Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly" (S. S. Rajamani); (13) "Library Reference and Research Services in Rajasthan Legislative Assembly" (C. P. Gupta); (14) "The Needs of University Libraries in Developing Countries" (G. G. Allen); and (15) "The Finnish Universities' Research Database Project" (P. Kytomaki). (SLD)



DIVISION: GENERAL RESEARCH LIBRARIES

SECTION : NATIONAL LIBRARIES

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Seeking alternatives to national libraries

by

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## ABSTRACT

While it is generally accepted that a national library is essential for the successful operation and execution of national library functions and services, this paper argues that the model of national library and national library services universally promoted is, in most cases, not relevant to the needs and practices of developing countries, particularly the small island states of the South Pacific. It presents its argument by first reviewing some current thinking on the issue and second by examining the applicability of the roles and functions of national libraries as provided in Sylvestre's Guidelines for national libraries to countries in the South Pacific region. Other roles and functions considered essential in the Pacific but not found in the Guidelines are given. Experiences of national libraries and libraries performing national library functions in the South Pacific are outlined. The paper concludes by suggesting that for small developing countries, particularly in the South Pacific, there is an urgent need to find alternative ways to create the need for and sustain current national library type functions and services practised. Where alternatives are few and resources scarce, a possible and practical solution at this time would be to operate within a framework of pooled regional and national resources, cooperation and coordination utilising and extending existing libraries and information infrastructures.

One of the recommendations made at the Moscow 1991 IFLA Pre-Session Seminar on the Role and Objectives of National Libraries in the New Information Environment was the desirability for every country to have a national library. The recommendation went further to add that, "all national libraries that have no legislative base for their activities or that have outdated legislation must urge their governments to adopt laws ensuring efficient fulfilment of national library functions".(1) Altogether ten recommendations were made. I was a participant at this Seminar. In discussions, I asked the keynote address presenter, Mrs. Bagrova(2), whether the legal basis was indeed a necessary precondition for the establishment of a national library and whether this would guarantee the best method, means, structure and process to achieve and sustain the objectives, role and functions of a national library in developing countries. Coming from a region where only four out of the twenty two countries have national libraries with legal basis, and from a country where there is no national library or national library act but where the role and some functions of a national library are shared and performed by a regional University, national library service, and a number of institutions and organisations, naturally I wanted an alternative view. Mrs. Bagrova's response was simple. She said that I should know the answer. In the past twelve months my search for an answer has continued drawing on my accumulated experience of working in libraries and information in the past twenty years. This paper documents that answer.

#### **Searching for an answer: the relevance and irrelevance of national libraries**

It is generally accepted that a national library is essential for the successful operation and execution of national library functions and services. Many countries, both developing and developed, are guided by and aim to meet, to some degree, the definition of National Library formulated at the 16th General Conference of UNESCO held in 1970(3) and which still forms the basis of our understanding of National Library:

"Libraries which, irrespective of their title, are responsible for acquiring and conserving copies of all significant publications published in the country and functioning as a deposit library, whether by law or under other arrangements. They will also normally perform some of the following functions: produce a national bibliography; hold and keep up to date a large and representative collection of foreign literature, including books about the country; act as a national bibliographical information centre, compile union catalogues; publish the retrospective bibliography. Libraries which may be called 'national' but whose functions do not correspond to

the above definition should not be placed in the 'National Libraries' category."

The emphasis is on the printed material and conservation functions. While service to users has become important in some national libraries and peripheral in others, national libraries have also become information brokers, some libraries pricing themselves out of the market so to speak making services unattainable for many individuals. New technology such as communication satellites and computerisation have become influential in the operations of libraries with national libraries, particularly those in developed countries, responding well to the technological, economic and social changes taking place nationally and internationally.

In the past thirty years the role and functions of national libraries in both the developed and developing world have been the subject of many national and international seminars beginning with the Unesco Vienna Symposium on National Libraries held in 1958 to the meeting in Moscow in 1991 where these issues came under closer scrutiny. There have been many meetings, surveys, studies and articles written on national library functions, legislation, services, roles, needs, and their significance to national development. Notable among these are Sylvestre's **Guidelines for National Libraries**(4) in which he attempts to answer the why, what and how of national libraries based on current practices; Maurice Line's **National Libraries and Information Needs**(5) dealing also with the why and how of national libraries but from a needs-based argument; and Graham Cornish's, **The role of National Libraries in the new information environment**(6) dealing with the impact of technologies on the role of the national library. There has certainly been no shortage of views, advice and ideas on national libraries.

Now, in 1992 we look backward. Much has happened in the development of national libraries since 1958. Developing countries are encouraged to plan and develop national libraries as this would, as the experts say, aid development. Countries have also tried to keep close to the Guidelines as national libraries are seen as constituting the desired end point in a country's library evolutionary progression if you like, and be the "prime mover in library matters and should be expected to be the leading library in all fields". (7) Throughout, factors external and internal to developing countries have shaped the development and nondevelopment, characteristics, role and functions of national libraries. International pressures have been imposed on developing countries to establish and/or accept the model of national library and national library services, even where

they do not fit. Internally, individual national governments' laissez-faire attitude to the development of libraries in their respective countries has constrained progress. These factors are interrelated because until those responsible for developing library services in a country know and decide what is needed and effective and have their own alternative plans of action, can they effectively respond to pressures from the outside and have some meaningful discussions with governments on the need for national library services.

If one looks at performance over the years in terms of national library role and functions as given by Sylvestre, indeed little real progress and development has taken place in many of the national libraries in the small developing countries. For example, in the beginning of the independence era of the 1970s in the South Pacific, there were four national libraries. Twenty years later there are still four, with all not meeting many of the national library functions. On the other hand, progress in the establishment and development of documentation centres, academic libraries, special libraries, public libraries and networking between these libraries in the absence of the leadership of a national library has taken giant steps in almost all the regions of the world even the South Pacific. Despite all this few have questioned the very basis of national libraries which are far from being people-based institutions serving the needs of multicultural and diverse communities.

### **The weakness of the dominant model**

This paper argues that this dominant model of national library and national library services universally promoted based largely on the views and ideas of industrialised countries is irrelevant to the needs and practices of national libraries in developing countries, particularly the small island states of the South Pacific on which my talk is focused. While South Pacific nations support the basic concept of conservation of a nation's heritage for future generations documented in written and recorded material and other elements defined for national libraries, generally their understanding and practices of the why and how, what, where and when of conservation and service are not quite the same as that of the developed world. In the South Pacific, where the cultures are not based on the written word, conservation and the needs of cultures are transmitted and preserved largely through language, dance, music, song, storytelling, drama, traditional practices, conversations, customary and traditional ways of knowing and reasoning particularly of the elders in the community. These are supplemented by written material. So, not only the service but also the collection is people-based. It therefore follows that any plan or desire to establish

national libraries in this region must take these different factors into consideration as the whole modus operandi reflecting different types of roles, functions and tasks come into question. The inadequate performance of the dominant model to accommodate these differences has led to the countries not pushing for a national library but rather consider various alternative conceptions and models of national library service.

Third World countries are, therefore, faced with having to make political, economic and administrative choices. A number of developing countries have built, with the support of government, grand national libraries and have successful national library plans in place based largely on developed country models and experiences but incorporating and integrating their own national ways of doing things. Despite these achievements, Bagrova, in her interim conclusion of a survey and work on a database of legislative framework of national library functions states that, "the first and most numerous group includes countries in which the activity of National Library is regulated in the legal respect with greater or smaller fullness. According to the database materials there are 85 such countries or 73% of the overall number of countries represented in the information array. Developing countries in this group make up 45....It is worth noting that librarians of some countries in {this} group express dissatisfaction with the state of the legislation concerning national library, noting its drawbacks and inadequate efficiency".(8)

Other countries, particularly those in developing countries and those in the South Pacific, have tried to approach the problem their own way finding alternative structures and systems to national libraries that are affordable and meaningful and providing a national library service that is not only accessible to the rural areas where bulk (75%) of the population live but also preserve and promote their cultures, languages and values through the written word as well as oral traditions making use of modern information-communication technologies where accessible and affordable. This somewhat echoes Maurice Line's view that "in no country is a single and separate national library the only way of meeting any single national library and information need".(9) and he calls for a reassessment of the traditional concept of role and function of national library. He warns that "a system should be realistic and attainable. Highly ambitious plans that cannot be attainable ... are worse than useless because they waste money, delay the implementation of a more practical system, and possibly damage the credibility of other plans".(10) But just establishing a national library in a small country in the South Pacific is relatively very ambitious, for in reality, if one



draws up the necessary and basic conditions for establishing and sustaining a national library the list becomes formidable. For example: sufficient economic resources, a good collection both general and local, physical space, trained human resources, efficient communication and postal systems, efficient transport system, government support and legal framework, national library development plan, successful publishing industry, good leadership, research and development facilities, access and use of new information technology, user education programs, etc. For many developing countries many of these preconditions do not exist.

Principally, therefore, the irrelevancy eluded to earlier stems from the lack of a real understanding of the social, economic, political situation and information needs of developing countries. Furthermore, because our concepts of what a national library is and what it is supposed to do differ for the developed and developing countries, and these have, of course, changed over time, efforts to seek relevant alternatives are necessary. The present form, role and function of national libraries that we understand still have flaws in concept, principle, and definition of the "fundamental", "desired" and "not necessary" functions and cannot be applied universally. It is a problem of definition and different cultural values, of different priorities in function and service, of affordable rather than desired needs. Indeed, there is a need for research to be undertaken in countries where libraries operate national library functions because a national library does not exist. Information on their role and function, workplan, infrastructure, operating methodology, successes and failures, staffing and other resources would be useful.

#### **Providing an alternative: the South Pacific experience**

In this paper the South Pacific is defined as the region covered by the South Pacific Commission which includes 22 countries. It excludes the Pacific rim countries as well as the developed neighbours, New Zealand and Australia. It is a vast region spanning 30 million square kilometres of which only 2% is land. The total population in 1988 was 5.8 million and of these 4.9 million or 85% live in Melanesia. The population of Papua New Guinea alone is 3 million which is 67% of the population of the region.(11). Populations of other countries are all below 1 million. Literacy rates vary: for Fiji it is 91%(1990)(12), Solomon Islands 51%(1987)(13), Western Samoa 98% (1981)(14), 99.6% in Tonga(1986).(15) The economies of the countries are small with some countries experiencing deteriorating economic performance and high imports; and for some countries there is a heavy reliance on aid.



Many of the Pacific nations obtained their independence after 1970. National and regional priority development plans in education, finance, health, social welfare, commerce, environment, agriculture and industry were quickly put in place with some assistance from former colonial masters: United Kingdom, France, New Zealand, Australia and the United States. Throughout, library development has been the responsibility of national education ministries who attribute little significance to the role of information to development. Since the independence era the number of national libraries has remained at four- Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. While the national libraries have legal basis they all still suffer from resources and operation problems and do not perform all of the normal functions of national libraries. Of the countries listed in Table 2 only one, Kiribati, has an approved national library plan. Papua New Guinea has a plan drawn up but is yet to be approved. Against this background (See Table 1) the role of national libraries and national library functions will be reviewed.

### **The role and functions of national libraries**

The role of the national libraries in the South Pacific basically has similar goals to developed countries including the normal collecting, organising, and actively providing information and information resource materials directly relevant to needs, aspirations, lifestyle and education status of users. For example, the National Library and Archives of Kiribati aims to provide an "efficient reference, bibliographical and information service to Government, institutions and individuals with emphasis placed in extending national library services to primary schools and rural libraries. Services also provide facilities and skills for the storage, care and maintenance of historical, administrative, official and other records and training and community services which promote the historical and cultural heritage".(16) For Papua New Guinea the aim of the national library is to "enhance the social, economic and educational development of the people of Papua New Guinea through the provision of relevant and comprehensive library and information services".(17) School library services, rural and community libraries, literacy programmes and training are included.

Apart from the education, conservation and development roles, national libraries in the region place a great deal of importance on the national library as cultural centres providing facilities for meetings, concerts, shows, films and exhibitions, training, social functions, language training - vernacular, English and French and translation services. In countries of the South Pacific that do not have a national library it would seem more relevant to establish national cultural and

information centres where the written and recorded material, oral traditions, artefacts, storytellers, dramatists and teachers are part of one system, not necessary under one roof, offering multi functions and carrying multi roles.

In analysing functions, this paper draws on normal functions of national libraries provided by Sylvestre(18) and alongside these the functions libraries in the region rate in terms of priority-essential, desirable, not relevant and a problem accomplishing. These ratings are based on a recent survey of libraries and national library needs focussing on rural libraries conducted in the latter half of 1991 by the University of the South Pacific, selected reports on library services and my knowledge of developments in this area.

## FUNCTIONS

## South Pacific Countries

	E	D	NN	P
Collection of national literature	+			+
Both published and unpublished,	+			+
Local languages	+			+
Foreign		+	+	+
Archival, all formats	+			
Purchase				+
Exchange		+		
Gift	+			
Legal deposit		+		+
National bibliographic agency		+		+
National union catalogue			+	
Information services	+			
Leadership and advice		+		
Interlending and access	+			+
Document provision	+			+
Distribution of gift books	+			
Services to the handicapped			+	
Organize special exhibitions	+			
Conservation		+		+

Domestic relations	+		
International relations	+		+
Planning and coordination	+		+
Education		+	
Research and development	+		+
Buildings and equipment.	+	+	+

E - Essential; D - Desirable; NN - Not necessary; P - a Problem

#### Essential functions South Pacific based

Functions that are considered essential based on needs of the Pacific Island states but not provided in the list above include:

.To act as clearinghouse not only for books and posters, leaflets, government brochures, artefacts but also for storytellers, travelling musicians and artists;

.To store and protect historical and current documents on customary land titles. This is a very important function for both the national libraries in Tuvalu and Kiribati as it helps with the peoples' legal claims to land contested in the courts;

.Work closely with local experts within the community and villages to encourage collection, recording and documenting traditional culture, for example traditional medicine, navigation, traditional fishing and agriculture;

.Cooperate with local bodies to collect/preserve archival material in whatever format of the existing heritage;

.With the assistance of government and other extension information officers, regular visits to the local community and villages are made to learn of their information and book needs in specific areas such as agriculture, health and nutrition;

.Encourage, promote and publish works written by local writers;

.Coordinate not only services but also workshops on priority areas, formal and nonformal training programmes, in-service training, study visits;

.Work closely with organisations, both public, non-government and private, in fulfilling these aims.

The sustainability and success of these functions require skilled and effective leadership with special experience in identifying and negotiating land with local communities and government, funds from aid agencies and government, gifts from various sources and the acquisition of family collections. National libraries also seek assistance from other libraries in the country and internationally to assist them. In countries that do not have national libraries, functions are carried out in a variety of ways, but mainly by sharing responsibilities on an ad hoc basis with some degree of coordination. Institutions and organisations accept responsibilities that are within their power to execute. Often problems of finance, administrative and professional rivalry emerge but work goes on. Fiji, Cook Islands, Western Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Vanuatu fall in this category.

In Fiji, national library functions and services are shared by a number of institutions and organisations working within a relatively good information infrastructure. Of these institutions the University of the South Pacific (USP) Library fill triple roles: regional, academic and national; the Library Service of Fiji fills dual roles of national and public; the National Archives, City/Town Public libraries run by City/Town Councils and the Fiji Library Association fill single roles of research library, public library and professional organisation respectively.

Of these, the USP Library collects material for the twelve member countries it serves (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa) and acts as the legal deposit for Fiji publications. It also distributes books within Fiji and the region and act as the regional information centre meeting some of the information needs of the regional countries in fisheries, population and agriculture. It plays a leading role in regional, national and international networking in these target developmental areas by planning, finding financial resources for the central and decentralised services and training. USP Library also runs regional and national formal and informal training programmes and assist in study visits for Fiji staff and others from Pacific countries. It performs other national library functions under the banner of a regional library, e.g. national and regional bibliographies. In fact USP Library can be considered the national library for member countries that do not have one just as the USP is considered the national university for the twelve countries it serves. This is a practical way of stretching limited resources and limits duplication. Satellite communications using USPNET and Peacesat have been the basis of communications keeping the different focal

points of the University Library network in contact. Unfortunately, the system suffers from a shortage of technical skill, reliability and a continued reliance on aid to keep operations functioning.

In other countries the need for a national library, both physically and as a service, is a low priority. The countries are small and services provided cover basically the supply of reading material and a place to study. Priorities include population issues, space, water supply, the environment and sustainable development and sea level rise. Niue, Nauru, Tokelau are some of the countries that fall in this category. Library needs and limited national heritage responsibilities are met by the University Library with New Zealand National Library assisting Niue and Tokelau.

### **Future Action**

At a Workshop on Rural Libraries held in Fiji in December, 1991 regional librarians present recommended that a meeting be held soon to discuss means of establishing information needs of the countries and to identify alternative ways that these be fulfilled not necessary by national library and/or national library service. The meeting hopes to be guided by the experiences of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati and assisted by the National Library of New Zealand who has already provided valuable advice.

Views of the different levels of people: the village community, urban community, the private sector, the voluntary organisations and government will be sought and participation of academic institutions, religious bodies, youth resources centres, overseas agencies and other libraries and individuals in the country encouraged.

Effectively, the meeting could draw on the Pacific Island nations' working experience with international and regional issues of importance such as the Law of the Sea, Regional Environment Agreement, geological and prospective mining, education, health education and law to support a recommendation calling for a regional information and library policy. Countries can be guided by this. It will also motivate and place requirements on the countries to develop national information policies and legislation so as to become full participants and partners in the regional information plan without losing national sovereignty.

It is clear that for a region such as the South Pacific alternatives are few. By choosing strategies

that are in line with other national policies, acquiring resources where available and adopting national library functions that are culture and people-based, contextual, necessary and attainable or affordable for the diverse cultural groups in the community, national library services should survive. There will be some degree of uncertainty in operations and sustainability in the short and long term but these are inevitable. At this time a practical solution would be to operate national library type services within a framework of pooled national and regional resources, cooperation and coordination utilising and extending existing libraries and information infrastructures. This should enable countries to meet, at least, part of their national library services aims of preserving for current and future use traditions and customs; the wisdom and knowledge of elders; languages, songs and stories; values and beliefs; traditional medicine, agriculture, navigation, customary fishing and craft as well as written material of national and local significance.

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**TABLE 1****PACIFIC ISLANDS : SOME USEFUL FACTS**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>LAND AREA*</b> (sq. km.)	<b>POP.*</b> (at last census)
American Samoa	US Terr.	197	36,260
Cook Islands	Self-gov.1965	240	17,185
Fiji	Indep. 1970	18,272	716,735
Guam	US Terr.	549	118,000
Kiribati	Indep.1979	726	63,883
Marshall Islands	Indep. 1991	171	43,355
Nauru	Indep.Rep.	21	8,042
New Caledonia	Terr. France	19,103	145,368
Niue	Self-gov.1974	258	2,532
Palau	Self gov.US	500	12,259
Papua New Guinea	Indep.1975	461,690	3,483,360
Solomon Islands	Indep.1978	29,785	285,796
Tokelau	Depend. NZ	12.1	1,703
Tonga	Indep. Monar.	696.71	96,592
Tuvalu	Indep.	25.9	8,364
Vanuatu	Indep.1980	12,189	140,154
Western Samoa	Indep. 1962	2,934	162,220

\* Pacific Islands Yearbook. 16th edition. 1989.

\* Latest census of countries.

**TABLE 2**

**PACIFIC COUNTRIES: NATIONAL LIBRARY AND NATIONAL LIBRARY FUNCTIONS**

Country	National Library	National Lib. Plan	National Lib. Services	Org. Perf. NLfunctions
American Samoa	/	/	+	Educ. Dept. Publ. Libs. Community Libs.
Cook Is.	/	/	/*(1)	?
Fiji	/	/	+	USP, LSF Museum Natl Arch. Tertiary, Public, libs
Kiribati	+	+	+	
Marshall Is.	/	/	+	Micronesian Community College Archives
Nauru	/	/	+	USP Centre
Niue	/	/		USP Centre Cultural Ctr. Educ. Dept.
PNG	+	+*(2)	+	Tertiary Institutions Public libs Spec. libs. Professional organs.

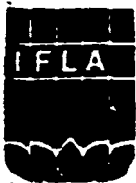
Solomon Is.	+	/	+	Comm. Sch. Natl. Lib. USP Centre Special libs
Tokelau	/	/	/	
Tonga	/	/	+(3)	Educ. Dept. Palace Archi USP Centre Relig. org.
Tuvalu	+	/	+	USP Centre Natl. Lib.
Vanuatu	/	/	+(4)	Vanuatu Cultural Centre, USP Centre Govt.sp.libs
Western Samoa	/	/	+	Public libs. USP Ctr. Govt. Depts. USP Sch. of Agric.

Notes:

/ : No; + : Yes.

1. The Cook Islands and Museum which carried national library services functions was closed in 1991 over land issues. The Head Librarian is currently under the Ministry of Education and Culture and is planning the new national library for Cook Islands to be open, hopefully, by end of 1992. This will be part of the new Cook Islands Cultural Centre.
2. This was completed in late 1991. As of February 1992 this plan was yet to be approved.
3. Tonga is also looking at the possibility of establishing a national library.
4. Vanuatu Cultural Centre combines national library services, a museum, oral traditions and sound archives.

(6.)



Division: GENERAL RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Section/RT: NATIONAL LIBRARIES

56-NAT-2-E

Joint Meeting with:

WORKSHOP THEME (IF APPLICABLE):

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The Role of National Library as a bibliographic centre  
in a multi-lingual situation : The Indian context

Ms. Kalpana Dasgupta  
Librarian  
National Library  
Calcutta

For internal use only:

Meeting No: 95

II: yes/no

Estimated number of participants  
in the meeting:

## INTRODUCTION : ABSTRACT

The multi-lingual tradition of India is reflected in the diversity of its publishing and also has its imprint on the library system. The Library services in India can be called a multi-faceted activity which cannot be kept within the water-tight-compartment of the four types of library systems as are generally known. Therefore, the role of the National Library as a bibliographic centre has to deal with diversified facets. However, the major activities of the National Library naturally have to be within the spectrum of the functions which are expected of a National Library; and India's National Library, therefore, cannot be an exception.

## BACKGROUND OF THE PRESENT NATIONAL LIBRARY :

The National Library in India has a very rich heritage and the collection, historically, goes back to the Calcutta Public Library which was established in 1836. The same collection was then merged with the then Imperial Library and formally the Imperial Library was opened to the public in 1903. This Library became the National Library by an Act of Parliament in 1948. Though the Imperial Library had a good and rich segment of Indian language material, but the colonial powers did not consider it right to make the Imperial Library a depository under the Press & Registration Act of 1867. The biggest lacunae of the Imperial Library collection regarding Indian language material started at that juncture. Therefore, the India Office Library & Records in the British Library has a much better collection of that period than the National Library.

## ACQUISITION POLICY FOR COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT :

There have been many important committees to review the working of the National Library which laid down many important recommendations to activate the services of the Library. Some of the main recommendations of the Reviewing Committee (1969) in connection with the development of the collection on the subject 'India' are as follows :

1. Acquisition and conservation of all significant printed materials produced in the country to the exclusion of ephemera;
2. Collection of printed material concerning the country wherever it is published and also acquisition of a photographic record of such material that is not available within the country ;
3. Acquisition and conservation of manuscripts of national importance ;
4. Planned acquisition of foreign materials required by the country.

One of the main recommendations of a more recent High Powered Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System of 1986 reads as follows :

"To collect and preserve the production of the nation in print and in non-print form and all that is printed about the nation".

**ENACTMENT OF THE DELIVERY OF BOOKS AND NEWSPAPERS (Public Libraries) ACT, 1954 :**

The Delivery of Books Act which was passed in 1954 and later amended in 1956 has acted as the first mile-stone towards the acquisition of Indian language material in a systematic manner in independent India. The provisions of the said Act are as follows :

Delivery of Books to Public Libraries - (1) Subject to any rules that may be made under this Act, but without prejudice to the provisions contained in Section 9 of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 (XXV of 1867), the publisher of every book published in the territories to which this Act extends after the commencement of this Act shall, notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, deliver at his own expense a copy of the book to the National Library at Calcutta and one such copy to each of the other three public libraries within thirty days from the date of its publications,

Delivery of newspapers to Public Libraries - Subject to any rules that may be made under this Act, but without prejudice to the provisions contained in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, the publishers of every newspapers, published in the territories to which this Act extends, shall deliver at his own expense one copy of each issue of such newspaper as soon as it is published to each such public library as may be notified in this behalf by the Central Government in the Official Gazette.

**COLLECTION THROUGH CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME :**

The National Library also acts as the implementing agency under the Cultural Exchange Programmes of the Govt. of India and is, at present, maintaining exchange relationship with 205 institutions in 81 countries. These exchange programmes are of great benefit for building the library collections by acquiring materials on Indology, translations of Indian classics, research reports etc. on South-Asia in general and India in particular through from the signatory countries. Generally such publications cannot be acquired through the usual channels of book trade. To give some examples the Library has received very large percentage of books on India from the exchange partners in France, Peoples Republic of China, Germany etc. During the year 1990-91, almost 61% of the receipts from France were on India.

The National Library also acquires through purchase material on India from different sources. In recent times the Library has procured full sets of xerox copies of theses on India and other South-Asian countries from the UMI.



With such collection which can be used as a major source of information on 'India' as a subject, the National Library can play the role of the major Bibliographic Centre in the multi-lingual situation much more effectively.

Library of Microforms :

The Reviewing Committee in its report recommended that the National Library's stock should be surveyed and lacunae mapped out. Since a large number of titles may not be available in the printed hard copy any more, efforts have to be made to identify them in libraries in India and abroad and acquire microfilm copies of the same. Therefore, the National Library has proposed to set up a Microform Library and acquire microforms of materials from different libraries, specially from the former colonial powers.

ROLE OF NATIONAL LIBRARY AS A BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTRE :

The main functions of the National Library as a Bibliographic Centre have also been laid down in the recommendations of the Reviewing Committee (1969) and the High-powered Committee on National Policy on Library and Information System of 1986. According to these recommendations, the National Library is expected to act as follows :

1. Rendering of bibliographical and documentation services on retrospective material, both general and specialised ;
2. Acting as a referral centre purveying full and accurate knowledge of all sources of bibliographic information and participation in international bibliographical activities ;
3. Provision of photo-copying and reprographic services
4. Acting as the centre for international book exchange and international loan
5. To render to the nation and to the world bibliographical and other services to meet the requirements of different user groups ;
6. To interface between the national systems and international systems wherever feasible, and
7. To play a role of leadership in the country in the task of expanding and improving the library and information services.

The functions of a National Bibliographic Centre was discussed in detail at a National Seminar on Bibliographic Control in India held in the National Library in 1985. The main functions of the National Bibliographic Centre in the Indian context which emerged during the discussions are :

- 1) To prepare current national bibliography and to develop automated system for publication of the Indian National Bibliography;

- ii) To prepare retrospective bibliography ;
- iii) To prepare a national union catalogue of major libraries ;
- iv) To prepare general bibliographies and special bibliographies
- v) To promote library cooperation for bibliographic activities ;
- vi) To render bibliographic information service ;
- vii) To undertake and sponsor bibliographic research ;
- viii) To adopt and promote adoption of international bibliographic standards
- ix) To exchange bibliographic records with other countries by agreements
- x) To participate in international bibliographic projects and systems
- xi) To coordinate bibliographic activities of different institutions, organisations and individuals
- xii) To function as a central bibliographic referral centre
- xiii) To undertake user education programmes and
- xiv) To undertake any other activity conducive to the promotion of bibliographical services in the country.

PRESENT BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES :

1. Indian National Bibliography :

The Delivery of Books Act 1954 triggered off the possibility of the compilation of the Indian National Bibliography by the National Library with the books supplied under the said act. Following the enforcement of the Delivery of Books Act, the publication of Indian National Bibliography started in 1958. It started in the National Library, but it was later on taken over by a sister organisation, called the Central Reference Library within the National Library campus. The bibliography is published on the basis of the deposits in the National Library under the Delivery of Books Act. At present, as per recent govt. decisions, the National Library will be made directly responsible again for the publication of Indian National Bibliography. The strength and the weakness of the coverage of Indian National Bibliography is, therefore, the reflection of the National Library operation of the Delivery of Books Act.

The publication of Indian National Bibliography is not a smooth activity. The diversity of Indian languages and script, incomplete coverage, lack of standardised processing system, lack of printing facilities in different languages and Romanised script has made it very difficult for the Indian National Bibliography to be a proper bibliographic tool for national bibliographic services.

At present, the Indian National Bibliography is in Romanised script with diacritics. The National Library used the Hunterian diacritics for transliteration. It was a major step towards standardisation of Indian language scripts for bibliographic purpose. With the advent of computers in library services, the National Library in collaboration with various institutions and libraries of India and with the representatives of Library of Congress and the British Library developed a standardised list of diacritics for transliteration in an automated system.

India in its recent times has seen a very important development for automation of language scripts. This is known as 'GIST' (Graphic and Indian Script Terminal) technology.

Since the correspondence between the Indian script alphabet is properly established in the GIST methodology, it is possible to transliterate automatically between the scripts. By transliteration we imply character by character transformation between the scripts. In this process the pronunciation of the original language is retained, although the script has changed. GIST allows any script to be transliterated to the Roman script with diacritic marks.

One of the important applications of transliteration indeed lies in the Library information systems. It is now possible for all the information about books to be entered accurately in the original script itself. This very information can be subsequently viewed in the script of one's choice. This will allow the foreign users to browse through the information in the Roman script, as has been the practice in most of the libraries. Through this transliteration facility, it is possible to publish bibliographies in multiple scripts, almost automatically.

Therefore, the future of Indian National Bibliography and any bibliographic services in India lies in a system which can produce bibliographic service in all the different scripts. In a multi-lingual situation, this plays a very important role because publishing in India is not restricted to the small group of large publishers. India's publishing is just as diverse as its language situation. There are giant publishers and there are small publishers, individual and family publishers etc. The Indian National Bibliography will mean very differently to small publishers if it can be brought out in the original languages. This is what the national bibliography in a multi-lingual situation should be. The National Library can no longer afford to remain in an ivory tower and produce romanised transliterated national bibliography for the intellectual research scholars alone. But it has to reach all corners of the country and should be used by all levels of users.



Vol. II (Part-I)

Tagore's books published posthumously till May, 1986

(Part-II)

Occasional papers

addresses, monographs, pamphlets (English & Bengali)

Vol. III

Tagore in languages other than Bengali

- i) Original works of Tagore in languages other than Bengali
- ii) Works translated by Tagore
- iii) Translations of Tagore's works in languages other than Bengali by others.

Vol. IV

Books on Tagore

Part-I - Bengali

Part-II - Indian languages

- a) Other Asian languages
- b) Languages of the rest of the world.

Such bibliographical projects emphasize the importance of the multi-lingual aspects of literary works. This historical bibliography of special nature will highlight through translations of the works, the gaps in such activity in different languages and the importance of translations in a multi-lingual situation. It will also help as a guide to future activities in translations so that there are no duplication of efforts.

Bibliographic activities of the Indian languages :

The National Library is the depository of all materials published in India and on India in different foreign languages. Under these circumstances, the bibliographical services rendered by the National Library is very diverse. Starting from the supply of simple list of publications on given topics, statistical statements, bibliographies of retrospective materials, bibliographies of books translated from one Indian language to another Indian language or those of foreign languages into Indian languages are also part of the bibliographical services rendered by different divisions of the National Library. Bibliographic entries usually comprise author, title, subject, place of publication, publisher, year of publication, price and the annotated note etc., as the requirement necessitates. The bibliography on celebrities of India is a very major feature of bibliographical service, e.g. bibliographies by and on great personalities like Tagore, Nehru, C.V. Raman and litterateurs of international repute. Since the Library also functions very much as a public library in the Indian context, exhibitions are also part of awareness service through visuals and preparation of bibliographies on such topics are also part of the major activities of the

National Library. Important exhibitions have been held in connection with life and works of famous statesmen and litterateurs as well as on important subjects in the Indian context.

Retrospective bibliographies with trend surveys of research will fulfil the major need of a National Bibliographic Centre which will act as a pointer towards future research. It will help in more systematic development of research in Indian languages and on subjects pertaining to India. Collaborative efforts with other national institutions such as the Sahitya Akademi, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSLOC) etc. will strengthen the role of the National Library as an institution which will help in setting the future trend of research on India and not act only as a depository and repository of Indian reading materials.

UNION CATALOGUE OF INDIAN RESOURCES :

To actually act as the National Bibliographic Centre of India, it is necessary to be aware of two major areas i.e. what is available where and what is being published. Under these circumstances, the National Library has proposed two new schemes for fructifying these activities :- The compilation of National Union Catalogue for books and setting up of a Monitoring Cell for National Book Production Statistics.

1. National Union Catalogue :

An exhaustive National Union Catalogue will help in bringing about bibliographic control of reading materials available in different parts of India which is a long standing need for research. A comprehensive National Union Catalogue will also help in resource sharing and acquisition programme by a) avoiding duplication of purchases b) filling the lacunae on a national basis.

In compiling a Union Catalogue of Indian resource a number of problems immediately meet the eye. To start with the smaller, and sometimes not-so-small libraries with limited resources, have woefully imperfect card-indices or catalogues, which need modern revision by staff specially deputed to do this work in particular, which should include inspection on the shelf of all titles. Without such complete information at the local level, it is hardly possible to think in national terms.

In the Indian condition, the National Bibliographic agency will have to work in conjunction with my official agencies of National status non-official agencies to act as the bibliographic centre and the major referral centre for Indian material. To clarify this point, it may be mentioned that the Union Catalogues of serials in the Social Sciences and in scientific subjects are being compiled by the National Social

Science Documentation Centre and Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre respectively. Documentation activities for manuscripts are being taken up by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. Proper linkages with all such agencies will have to be maintained to act as a National Bibliographic Centre.

## 2. Monitoring Cell for National Book Production Statistics :

One of the major problems of the National Library in particular and Indian libraries in general is that there is little idea about how many books are produced in India every year. It is widely acknowledged that the deliveries made under the Delivery of Books Act to the National Library and the other recipient libraries fall much short of the number of books produced in India. But there is no means of discovering the dimension of this gap of forming any accurate idea of the actual statistics.

The Library through resource persons and institutions in the different Indian states will collect reliable and representative statistics of books than is now available for the production of Indian National Bibliography. The Library will collate and compare the figure thus obtained with the Deliveries under the Act and supply the larger figures if reliable to international and national agencies. This will also help in activating the Delivery of Books Act also.

## CONCLUSION :

The present Indian bibliographic scene is very scattered and is also plagued with the problem of institutions working in isolation. Each institution caters to its users in its own way and the scholars, therefore, are very much confused about the bibliographic services rendered in different institutions. The scholars will very much appreciate if any central agency could render bibliographic service and information service both as a central nodal point or a referral centre for bibliography itself. The National Library must develop linkages with the other recipient libraries as well as with the major research institutions, national documentation centres and the academic libraries with large collections through the various networking systems which are being envisaged now. Within such linkages, the National Library of India can operate as a National Bibliographic Centre. The country as a whole will have to be divided into five zones and major regional/zonal nodal points have to be set up for such linkages.

The main thrust of bibliographic services in India should be the merger of concept of union catalogue and bibliographies. Retrospective bibliographic service should be able to also give the necessary information regarding the availability of the material.



The preparation of union catalogue on a nation-wide basis is a large and continuous venture, but if bibliographic services which will be rendered through the various proposed and upcoming network systems in India, can prepare the databases with the information regarding availability of material involved, then the scholars in India will not have to look for material which may be available within their own state or within their own zone and thereby will not have to undertake long distance journeys to reach the necessary information.

It is true that the National Library alone cannot play the role of the National Bibliographic Centre very effectively at present but with the modern technological developments, it is expected that India with all its diversities will still become an unified whole in the context of bibliographic services.

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Division: General Research Libraries (Division I)



Section/KK: Parliamentary Libraries (Section 03)

37-PAR-1-E

Developmental Strategies of Computerized  
Legislative Information Services

by

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Library and Information Service (LIS)  
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For internal use only:

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## **Abstract**

Computerized information systems have been a complementary part of overall legislative information service since the 1970s. Now such information systems have become not only the mainstream of information service, but a focus of parliamentary administration in general because ready access to appropriate information on a timely basis is fundamental to rational decision-making and to the formulation of good public laws and policies. This paper describes some basic strategies for developing an information system that meets the needs of members of any legislature or parliament.

## **Introduction**

In general, the government agencies of the Republic of China on Taiwan began to implement their computer applications at the beginning of the 1980s. The Institute of Information Industry, supported by the Ministry of Economics, was created to encourage the country to become an information society.

During the early 1980s progress was made in Chinese information processing as well as Chinese computer applications, including the Chinese character codes for a binary system, a Chinese input system with a terminal keyboard, a Chinese decoding/display system on the CRT terminal screen, a Chinese version of MARC, and Chinese keyboard indexing.

This new information environment made possible new computerization projects in every branch of Taiwan government agencies; consequently, the development of computerization in our government has flourished.

## **The Experience of the Legislative Yuan**

The mission of the Library and Information Service (LIS), as stipulated in article 4 of the Executive Regulations of the Secretariat, the Legislative Yuan, 1953, is to acquire and manage legal and legislative documents, with the objective of providing the necessary resources for the legislature through analysis, research, and reference services, in support of the legislators' representative and legislative functions.

In 1981 at its 68th session the Legislative Yuan began a series of internal administrative meetings to improve legislative functions. The legislators expressed at those meetings their strong desire for a computer-based legislative information service. Former President Ni of the Legislative Yuan continuously supported this desire. In 1984 he directed the Library and Information Service (LIS) to formulate a concrete plan for the development of a computerized information service.

To ensure the success of this computerization project, which was to span four years, a Committee on Computerized Information Management was organized in January 1984, presided over by the Secretary General of the Legislative Yuan, with the Director of LIS as the executive secretary. Foreign computer information experts were invited to be the committee's advisors. A domestic ad hoc working group for "The Development of Information and Research Services" was also set up in September 1985, and has been sponsored partially since then by the Asia Foundation. Mr. Karl Ku was appointed as the leader of this development project.

Because no one had experience in automation practice among the staff of the Chinese Parliament, and there were few precedents for computer applications to Chinese legislation, not to mention the large differences between countries as well as languages, the systems to be developed in the Legislative Yuan had to be totally new.

Nonetheless, with the collaboration of committee members, the participation and consultation offered by information experts, and the efforts of LIS staff, this computerized legislative information project of the Legislative Yuan has progressed rather well, and has successfully completed its primary development goal. In 1988 Dr. Sheldon R. Severynhauss pointed out in his article, "Legislative Reform in Taiwan," that the Legislative Yuan, through remarkable development of its library and information service, is now revolutionizing its legislative processes in the Republic of China.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, LIS may now have one of the most sophisticated parliamentary information services in Asia.

As of May 1992, the computer-based information system of the Legislative Yuan, named officially LEGISIS (short for LEGISlative Information System), has six component systems in a large-scale Chinese data base and two dozen office automation PC application systems. Through the WAN (Wide Area Network), each office in the Legislative Yuan can access LEGISIS. Also, LEGISIS has introduced remote terminals outside the Yuan (Parliament) to access data bases through the telephone system.

The remainder of this paper is a brief description and list of major developments and services already provided. The discussion ends with a summary of prospective development.

### **Strategies for Project Development**

To establish a nationwide accessible information system, the Committee on Computerized Information Management went through a cautious planning process in setting up the fundamental principles for system development, as follows.

1. Confirmation of information requests -- We communicated with potential users within the Legislative Yuan, including legislators, their assistants, and the staff of the Yuan in order to understand their information needs. The objectives and strategies of the computerization project were determined according to these needs.

2. Definition of the project scope -- After a preliminary study of the demands and requirements of the users, a "Draft for the Computerized Information Work Project" was produced in 1985 to clarify the scope of the project. Based on our continuous user study, a long-term development program of computer applications in the Legislative Yuan was finally launched in 1988.

3. Determination of project priorities -- In accordance with the technical aspects of Chinese data processing, and with the preferences of legislators, the development of the Legislators' Interpellation Information System and the Chinese Code Full-Text Information System were chosen as two pilot projects of the computerized legislative information system. The former is a complex index/abstract information retrieval system with dozens of access points for each interpellation record; the latter is a full-text document information retrieval system.

4. Recommendations from the legislators -- During the development process, the computerization project invited suggestions and advice from legislators. In order to explain the purpose and progress of our project to legislators as well as to gather their opinions, LIS

twice conducted special briefings for legislators in 1986 and 1988. Some valuable views were received for modifying the trend of development.

5. Increasing budgetary support -- With a budget of NT\$ 2 million (approximately US \$50,000), the computerization project was started in fiscal 1986, and this amount has been gradually increased annually to expand the work. The budget is expected to be nearly NT\$ 45 million (approximately nearly US \$2 million) in fiscal 1993.

6. Recruiting professional personnel -- Since much intensive intelligence is needed to support system development, recruiting professional staff was considered a priority. Beginning in 1986, the Legislative Yuan has held several public examinations to select qualified personnel for each technical position. Meanwhile, LIS is seeking manpower within its institute for further development of the project.

7. Promotion of information consumption -- To ensure an effective utilization of the Chinese information systems, the Law Information Center of LIS was created in 1985 to incorporate an international information service, i.e., DIALOG, hoping that through the experience of a well-developed system, users might be accustomed to and appreciate computerized information searching. At the same time, a series of user training programs were conducted by the Center to facilitate and encourage legislative use. At present, many terminal users can easily access LEGISIS.

8. Introduction of new technologies -- Computer techniques have made significant headway in keeping up with the development of science and technology. Knowing the importance of keeping pace with new technologies, employees of LIS are encouraged to improve their professional expertise and knowledge by attending training courses held abroad or locally. This participation will bring in necessary technical inputs and help ensure a high standard for the developing systems.



## **Steps To Establish the Systems**

After careful planning and preparation, the LEGISIS project began implementation in 1986. The work includes the following stages.

1. Request for proposals -- In January 1986 the Legislative Yuan announced its computerized information project to more than 100 computer vendors to invite their proposals on the development of this project; 20 vendors submitted the required proposals.

2. Establishment of a pilot test project -- In March 1986 we invited experts and scholars to examine and evaluate those proposals submitted by vendors. Since there was no single vendor who had sufficient previous experience on a similar system, five vendors--rather than a single vendor--were chosen to prevent any undesirable flaw in the pilot project. These five most qualified and willing vendors then signed a contract with us, respectively, to develop pilot systems, and the Legislative Yuan provided each vendor a grant of NT\$ 200,000 for their efforts. The purpose of this pilot project was to establish a prototype of LEGISIS. The contract lasted for six months and focused on developing the software modules of the Interpellation Information System and Chinese Code Full-Text Information System.

3. Evaluation and demonstration -- During the period of developing the LEGISIS pilot systems, the staff of LIS assisted by confirming the functional requirements of the systems, and these system requirements were then set as the criteria for evaluation to be held later on. As the contract came to an end, LIS, on behalf of the Legislative Yuan, held an exhibition to demonstrate and evaluate the systems developed by those five vendors. LIS invited legislators, information specialists, and scholars from academic communities to attend the exhibitions and to express their opinions on how the systems could be further improved.

4. Installing the systems -- Finally, the Taiwan Digital Corp. was selected as the best of the five vendors and won the contract for developing the remaining systems. In October 1987 the host computer and its peripheral devices were installed; during the next two months

the equipment was subjected to intensive testing. In January 1988 the technical transfer and staff training were completed. All equipment was accepted by the following March, and the LEGISIS hardware became operational. Meanwhile, the two above-mentioned application systems were developed and introduced for public access in LIS.

5. Environment and space planning -- While the pilot computerization project was in progress, new working spaces were arranged to house the electronic data processing and computer systems. This included special electrical equipment, an air conditioning system, an earthquake/flood/fire proof system, a 24-hour safeguard system, etc. The equipment was set up by a group of engineers who were responsible for the construction of the Computer Center because a good operating environment is essential to production of good quality information.

6. Organizing the Computer Center -- The Computer Center of the Legislative Yuan, created in November 1987, was established to oversee all computerization projects of the Yuan. The center has five functional units: the computer room, the briefing and training area, the data processing area, the programming area, and the printer room.

### **Current Computer-Based Information Service**

By the end of March 1992, three computerized legislative information services had been provided: access to a large-scale Chinese data base system, foreign international information retrieval through an international network, and installation of microcomputers to facilitate office automation.

The first service contains the following components within the LEGISIS network.

1. A Legislative Electronic Bulletin Board System -- To provide the most up-to-date information on the Parliament such as status of Legislative Yuan meetings, important events in Taiwan, and decisions of the Legislative Yuan.

2. A Legislators' Interpellation Information System -- To offer computerized information retrieval with multiple access points. The system contains in its data base updated

records retrospective records from 1984. The data base, which has more than 14 access points, can be searched by date, subject, name, etc.

3. A Chinese Code Information Service -- To display the complete contents of the Republic of China laws, including titles, texts, associated articles, enacting dates, amending dates, subjects, and purposes, etc. The system has several kinds of searching methods.

4. A Chinese Code Amendments Information System -- To enable access to all codes amended by the Legislative Yuan since 1970, the year the government promulgated the Central Codes Standard. The information in this system is organized according to the main reason for the amendment, procedure of the amendment, and the text of the amended codes.

5. A Legislative Literature Information System -- To establish a bibliographic data base of periodical articles and research papers since 1985 in the fields of law, politics, economics, financial subjects, public administration, and technical education, etc. The system contains nine access points, including categories, subjects, keywords, authors, journal titles, etc.

6. Legislative News Information System -- To display collections of clippings from 16 local daily and evening newspapers. This system provides online retrieval of important political events, records of the legislature, developments in the Legislative Yuan, administrative policies of the Executive Yuan, and current news.

The second service in operation by March 1992 is the international information service. With computer and telecommunications networks, this service connects to DIALOG and LEXIS/NEXIS and provides access to more than 500 data bases. It is equipped with fast, up-to-date, and comprehensive information retrieval, much like an electronic encyclopedia. The system also provides DIAL ORDER downloading and CD-ROM information retrieval service.

The third service is an installation of microcomputers to improve office automation. It has several components.

1. A Congressional Diplomatic Information System -- To keep keep records of visitors to the Legislative Yuan from all over the world. The names of visitors and nationalities of

political parties can be used as access points to ascertain background information on visitors. Date of visit, number of visitors, or the name of the country can enable users to check the activities of the visitors during the time they are with the Legislative Yuan.

2. A LEGISIS Thesaurus System -- To provide bilingual subject indexing terms used by legislative information systems for data base retrieval. The system has three access methods: Chinese terms, English terms, and the codes of the terms. The system also produces a hard copy reference tool for users entitled "LEGISIS Thesaurus."

### **Prospective Development**

Compared with other computerization projects, LEGISIS is one of the most efficient plans accomplished within a four-year period. However, it is still far from being perfect; more work remains to be done.

Thus far, LIS has mapped out a long-term development plan for future computer-based information service to the Legislative Yuan. The following information systems are planned for completion before the year 2000:

- A Legal Documents Full-Text Information Group System
- An Interpellation and Legislative Documents Information Group System
- An International Legal Information Group System
- An Office Automation Information Group System
- A Bills Tracking and Administrative Management Information System
- A Library Automation Information System.

A nationwide network among the district offices of legislators is also being planned for installation within the next two years. We at LEGISIS wish to share our experience with other interested libraries through worldwide international networks in the years to come.

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Division: General Research Libraries (Division I)



Section/RX: Parliamentary Libraries (Section 03)

38-PAR-2-E

**The Russian Parliamentary Library: Its History,  
Functions and Proposed Automation**

by

**Jakov Shraiberg, First Deputy Director  
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The Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology,  
Moscow, Russia**

**Introduction by  
Irina Andreeva, Head  
Russian Parliamentary Library, Moscow, Russia**

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in the meeting:

## **Abstract**

The automation project of the newly established Russian Parliamentary Library is based on the following principles: (1) The Parliamentary Library is a special library that serves legislators with materials from its own collections and data bases of other libraries, information centres, research institutes, enterprises, and other organizations. (2) The Library is a member of the distributed library-information infrastructure and functions as a telecommunications customer and central information node. (3) The Library is part of the Parliamentary Centre and integrates its resources with those of other structures, primarily with the Information Analytical Centre. (4) The Library's automated technologies are to be created in accordance with the latest world innovations.

## **Introduction**

The Parliamentary Library of Russia was formed by a resolution from the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation in the fall of 1991, to be built on the basis of the library of the Supreme Soviet and the library of the former sociopolitical center of the Moscow Municipal Committee of the Communist Party. In March 1992 the Parliamentary Library transferred its resources and office space from the Library and Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation to offices in both the White House (Supreme Soviet) and the Parliamentary Centre, which houses the research and analytical services provided to Parliament.

The main task of the Library, as envisaged, is to provide members of the Parliament with efficient, high-quality library and information services to assist them in their judicial, supervisory, and representative functions and in their contacts with the electorate. The Library will serve as a centralized information resource for the deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, the committees and commissions of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet, and the employees of the Parliamentary Centre. It is expected that by drawing upon its own collections and information files as well as those of other republics and countries, the Library will render a wide range of services to the Parliament in order to provide the Republic with a well-informed legislative power.

As the Library is currently configured there are three reading rooms. A general reading room is located in the Parliamentary Centre; a general reading room and a document reading room are on the nineteenth floor of the White House. There are approximately 16 employees who spend a large part of their time weeding and sorting the inherited collection of some 600,000 items, almost all of which are former Soviet Communist literature and pamphlets. At present the Library is severely constrained



in its ability to provide information to the legislature by its lack of copying equipment.

There is currently only one desk-top copier available.

However, as the Library expands and more resources become available, it hopes to locate the acquisitions/technical functions in the Parliamentary Center and to have the informational services in the White House. The Library has an allocation of 35 positions, and it is expected that when all the positions are filled half will be library specialists and the other half specialists in the fields of law, history, sociology, and political science. The process of filling these positions is slow, because the Library is concerned that it hires only qualified people and also compatible people who work well together. The plans for the future include bibliographers on the nineteenth floor. These bibliographers will answer the informational requests received from members of the legislature by searching current literature (both periodicals and newspapers). Articles will then be organized and transmitted as a package to the requesting member of the legislature. As it is conceived, the Library will be organized into three categories: library collections and related services; parliamentary, governmental and official information; and bibliographic services, which entail preparation and dissemination of information products and services.

The Russian Parliament has turned over to the Library the task of resolving as soon as possible the problem of obtaining information from all published sources. The Library has begun planning in order to obtain this information. Yet it is aware that the traditional forms of service will not be adequate to satisfy the needs and demands of the legislature, and it believes that it is best to aim for a fully automated library from the beginning rather than building up its automated functions incrementally. Thus, if it could take advantage of the technology and know-how that exists and start with a fully automated facility, the Library could serve the Parliament more quickly

~~and efficiently and enhance its access to information and data bases of existing libraries~~  
and research institutes throughout the world.

The paper that follows presents a pilot project offered by the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology for the automation of the Parliamentary Library and describes the project achievements in the automation of library functions. There have been a number of ideas considered for creating a fully automated Parliamentary Library. However, the proposal presented below by Dr. Shraiberg of the Russian National Library for Science and Technology is the only idea that has been fully worked out and submitted as a formal proposal.

Irina Andreeva,

Head of the Russian Parliamentary Library

### **Background**

The Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology and other major libraries of Moscow and St. Petersburg took an active part in the establishment of the Russian Parliamentary Library. The Parliamentary Library was created to provide a new type of information service to the Russian Supreme Soviet.

The general concept of the Parliamentary Library is based on the principles of the already existing major libraries and institutes, such as the former State Lenin Library (the Russian State Library), the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology, Saltykov-Shchedrin National Public Library, Historical Library, Institute for Information on Social Sciences, the Russian Institute of Scientific and Technical Information, and the like. This concept presumes the formation of a focused special collection for information services and a wide application of collections and data bases of the existing libraries.

in modern information technologies, the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology undertook the development of an automation pilot project for the Parliamentary Library, the aim of which is to create a fundamentally new automated technological and information environment with modern hardware and software facilities and the latest achievements in the automation of library functions.

### **Objectives of the Project**

The long-term objective is to create a new, highly efficient automated system integrated into the unified information environment of the Russian Parliamentary Centre and Supreme Soviet, with the aim of providing an information system to deputies, committees, commissions, and chambers of the Russian Supreme Soviet. The Parliamentary Library is to function in the distributed library information infrastructure of this country and other countries of the world.

The immediate objectives of the pilot project are to develop the automated stock-building technology of the Parliamentary Library; to establish a control system for the collection, user service, and management of the Library as a structural part of the Russian Parliamentary Centre and the Supreme Soviet; to create an efficient and relevant user service with a system of local networks and telecommunication access to the information resources of the Parliamentary Library, other libraries, institutes, and enterprises; and to ensure compatibility of data processing and hardware-software systems with the automated systems of the Russian Parliamentary Centre and the Supreme Soviet.

### **Basic Project Decisions**

The project is unique in its comprehensive approach to the automated system, which envelopes the full set of library-information functions and tasks, ensuring a

simple and effective operation and supported by modern, highly efficient software and hardware. The approach utilizes DEC hardware (Digital Equipment Corporation Ltd., U.S.A.) and the ALEPH integrated Library System (Israel-Denmark), and incorporates the widely used library information systems of CDS/ISIS (UNESCO) software technology.

A basic project decision was to adopt DEC hardware, which offers a comprehensive approach, known as Network Application Support (NAS), to the hardware and software systems obtained from various suppliers. The approach enables application of open standards that easily integrate, transfer, and distribute programs through the networks of different systems such as VAX, UNIX work stations, MS-DOS personal computers, Apple Macintosh and Intel/SCO systems, universal IBM computers, and Cray supercomputers.

A comparative study based on domestic and foreign publications surveying library automated systems shows that ALEPH is one of the best. It surpasses such famous library packages as LIBER, DYNIX, GEAC, DOBIS-LIBIS, VTLS, and DATALIB. The ALEPH system is installed in more than 60 libraries in many countries worldwide. ALEPH allows libraries to meet their information handling and retrieval requirements accurately and efficiently. It is a modular system with capabilities for numerous tasks including cataloging; authority file and thesaurus maintenance; storage of items according to copy number, bar code, status, location, etc.; retrieval, sorting, and printing; circulation with bar code application; acquisition; interlibrary loan management; serials control; input-output utilities; and operation in 10 alphabets. Use of the CDS/ISIS software system is widespread in Russian and FSU (former Soviet Union) libraries and this system will be used in the Parliamentary Library for access to various on-line data bases and to create special data bases for the Library's own use.

## **Basic Content of the Work**

Automated stock-building technology, i.e., selection, acquisition, cataloging, linguistic processing, storage, and stock-taking can be performed when the ALEPH package is adapted to the structure and stock of the Parliamentary Library and to the current traditional functions of national libraries.

The Parliamentary Library will contain traditional, electronic, and audio-visual products. Its collections will include legislative documents; materials on the activities of the Russian Supreme Soviet commissions, committees, chambers, and deputy groups; newspapers and journals; reference publications; books and serials; information science; and bibliographic, pull-text, and reference data bases. Regions covered are the Russian Federation (including autonomous republics and regions and other foreign regions) and the republics of the former U.S.S.R.

Plans for the collections are extensive. For example, legislative documents will eventually comprise 100,000 items of literature, with documents from 88 regions of Russia and depository functions for the defined type of documents retrospective since 1989. Materials on Supreme Soviet and related activities will number some 10,000 items annually; newspapers and journals, 2,500 titles annually; reference publications, 1,000 titles annually; and books and serials, 10,000 titles annually.

Using librarians' work stations based on IBM PC-compatible computers of the local network and VAX terminals, the staff may perform a number of functions. One important function is acquisition -- selection and ordering of publications, recording newly acquired items, and control of the time of the order fulfillment, in both traditional and telecommunications modes.

A second function is cataloging -- application of ready-made descriptions of foreign and domestic publications received on electronic media (CD-ROM) or via telecommunications. An orientation is made to the cataloging adopted in the Library

of Congress, U.S.A., via the OCLC network (for foreign publications) by using the on-line UNION Catalog System on a noncommercial basis. One of the connections already tested is the European EARN network, which has its nodes and a host-centre in Moscow compatible with the teleinterface of VAX computers of the automated system in the Parliamentary Library. The Parliamentary Library uses both the ISBD standard English-American Standards for Bibliographic Descriptions and MARC-oriented format for representing cataloging descriptions. The automated cataloging technology includes, among other features, a full-screen editor, format logical control with editing and amending, duplication check, provisions for different types of documents as well as microforms, slides, maps, etc., and an automated bar-coded identification system that ensures location of any item in the document flow and control over the document movement through the technological processing cycle.

A third function is linguistic processing -- various classification and encoding systems used in international practice to ensure the required information compatibility for linguistic processing: Universal Decimal classification (UDC), Library of Congress headings, and a special identifier of subject headings of the Parliamentary Library that ensures indexing by means of keywords.

A fourth function, storage and stock maintenance, is achieved by an automated work station in the Library's Storage Department that records the publication delivered to storage, controls the circulation, and ensures stock-taking and statistics maintenance for additional acquisition or discarding.

A fifth function, registration and control of the collections, is accomplished with the use of bar-coded identification technology and the application of portable PC-32 terminals for stock taking. Each publication on loan is registered by a date, a quota for the copying status, user borrowing privileges, etc., and checked afterward for accuracy. Invalid transactions are stopped, recorded, and returned for correction. A VAX server

computer controls the automated circulation technology and receipt of user orders and rules out the necessity to use pneumatic mail and other mechanical means for the transportation of orders.

### **Automated Stock Control, Service Control, and Management Systems**

An automated stock control system is planned that will accomplish acquisition control, items control, and recording of statistics received on number of items, users, items on loan, acquisition activities, and the analysis of user orders.

The automated service control system oversees services transactions. It includes interlibrary loan control -- remote access and the availability of the publication in the library's collections, requests for photocopies, activities control, and the printout of notices and claims; circulation control -- return transactions including information on the item and user; conservation control -- technical facilities preventing the loss of publications and their unallowed removal; and statistics on the state of service -- analysis of fulfilled and unfulfilled requests, service time, etc.

The management system will be based on PCs connected to the analogous system of the Parliamentary Centre. It will include work stations for accountants, for the Planning Section, and for the Foreign Relations Section, etc.

The automated user service technology provides for large-scale and high-service information retrieval in the online catalog: subject, alphabetical, forward and backward scrolling, logical command, extended or limited search, and full-text retrieval. Information may be displayed in number of formats: an alphabetic list of entries from authority files or words from text of any field and indication of the number of postings under each entry; concise bibliographic information (on author, title, year of publication, volume, etc.); display of cross-references; display of complete bibliographic record by more than 100 different output screens and printed forms; list of items stored,

~~their locations, and availability; list of current issues: volumes, issues, series numbers,~~  
etc.; display of abstracts, annotations, keywords, etc.

Special attention is paid to the human-computer user-friendly interface. It includes direct interactive operations, function keys, systems of explicit instructions and "help" screens, menu, and command control.

### **The System of Local Networks and Telecommunications Access**

The local networks and telecommunications system will allow access to the resources of the Parliamentary Library and other libraries, institutes, and organizations.

The strategy of DEC in the network telecommunications processing is to widen the area of software and hardware application, to provide opportunities to build and integrate various data transfer networks. The network is a multilevel structure generally coinciding with the model Open Systems Interaction (OSI).

Controllers, repeaters, concentrators, static multiplexors, terminal servers, and other means of communication are based on a number of components: IEEE 8023 (Ethernet) support, FDDI (fiber-optic communication) support, connection with voice and image transfer systems, interface with network equipment of other suppliers; the Parliamentary Library, the Russia Institute for Sci-Tech Information (published sci-tech documents), and the VNTICentre (R&D reports, dissertations); NPO "Poisk" (patents, author certificates), INION (published documents on social sciences), VNIKI (norms and technical standards), VKP (domestic books and pamphlets), IZSP (data bank on domestic laws), and other information sources.

### **Data Processing and Program-Technical Compatibility**

The compatibility of the Parliamentary Library's automated system with the systems under development and the already-functioning systems of the Parliamentary



Centre and with the system "Russia" of the Russian Supreme Soviet is achieved by open local and telecommunications networks via X.25 and SNA standards. This equipment makes possible the processing of distributed files, distributed processing of printing orders, teleconference capability, and E-mail.

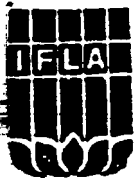
Application of multifunctional software complexes (ALEPH, CDS/ISIS/M) with ISO-standard internal and exchange formats allows organized information exchange between any data processing systems, including those working in the DBF format (via simple convertors) in local and telecommunications networks.

The integrated technology of the automated systems of the Parliamentary Library, the Parliamentary Centre, and the Russian Supreme Soviet developed on the basis of ISO-standard information exchange (in the MARC format, for instance) will provide for access of information and documents requested by users from distributed collections to any of the above-mentioned systems.

### **Conclusion**

The ideas and descriptions of the technological approach described in this paper undoubtedly will require a broad discussion of specialists. The project reflects the approach of the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology, is based on the experience of this Library in the automation of library information process, and was developed with respect to specific features of the Russian Parliamentary Library.

We hope the future will prove the correctness of the recommended approach.



Division: General Research Libraries (Division I)

Section/RK: Parliamentary Libraries (Section 03)

39-PAR-3-E

**Rethinking a Library: Knowledge for Legislators  
and the Library of Congress of Chile**

by

Ximena Feliú, Director

and

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in the meeting:

## **Abstract**

**After 17 years of military rule in Chile, Congresspeople must deal with a new information environment so as to legislate in a knowledgeable, efficient, and effective manner. The Chilean Library of Congress is reconsidering its traditional role in order to offer integrated services and information products to Congress. As described in the paper, the Library is embarking on a major modernization and development project to provide for the information demands and needs of this new Congress.**

The Chilean Library of Congress was created in 1883 with the purpose of providing national and international information sources to legislators on economic, social, cultural, and political development of the country so that they could "properly uphold the profound historical responsibility of their mission."

The Library collection has grown throughout its 109 years. It is an organized repository of historical, social, and political information, although there are some unbalanced subject areas because of diminished budgets and fewer demands during the 17 Junta years. The collection currently comprises documents received as a repository institution of UN, EEC, OAS, and other international organizations; it also contains documents received from Parliaments of other countries; 200,000 monograph titles; 7,000 serials titles, 500 of which are active; an archive of 2,500,000 press clippings; and a complete collection of session bulletins of the Chilean Congress.

The Chilean Library of Congress provides three levels of information services and products: (1) inquiries that are answered with little or no previous elaboration, such as factual data, photocopies of an article, quick reference services; (2) questions that need further analysis, and the requester receives comprehensive "as-is" information -- data, legislative information, simple bibliographies, and the like; (3) in-depth research on a topic, after which the requester is often provided with a study or paper.

The Library has 147 employees of diverse backgrounds, such as librarians, lawyers, accountants, economists, political scientists, geographers, and administrative and clerical staff.

The Library is situated in Santiago as well as Valparaiso. The Santiago Central Library holds the monograph collection and provides general reader services, cataloging, and reference; an annex building at Santiago provides press clippings, specialized reference services, and the serials collection. The Valparaiso facility, which is currently

~~being designed within the Library of Congress building, will provide liaison with~~  
Santiago. Santiago does the main information processing; and currently a few collections and services are offered in Valparaíso with the help of technology.

### **The Problem**

Modern information and communication technologies have changed traditional library functions, as well as the way in which the user perceives and demands information products and services. The Library of Congress is not a stranger to this situation, particularly in its main function of information consultant to aid Congresspeople in their legislative and representative roles. This means that the legislator's action must rest on the expedient and selective handling of trustworthy sources that include opinions, theories, previous experiences, indicators, statistics, international laws, and others.

During the 17 years of military rule in Chile, the country experienced a time warp as to human rights, political, and social issues. But in other aspects such as economic and financial policy and adoption of new technologies, it kept up to date with the latest trends. Thus, on the reestablishment of a democratic government, Chile had a market economy, modern management techniques, and the latest information technologies -- all in a recognized effort to integrate into the global market.

The new democratic government has the challenge of continuing work to develop a strong market economy, limiting the growth of the bureaucratic apparatus, meeting a long-forsaken social agenda in workable terms, dealing with political issues largely interrupted, and leading the country successfully within an increasingly competitive world market.

During the military regime when Congress was inactive, laws were enacted by legislative commissions of the Junta. The reinstallation of Congress meant

reconsidering the way representatives work. Now, even more than before, the need for information is urgent. Congresspeople are multiple-source, multilevel information consumers who do not have the time or inclination to search or browse through volumes of potentially useful information. Their needs are unique and immediate; there is much legislative work before the Congress.

The only technological feat accomplished during the Junta years was the development of legislative data bases and the use of an automated bibliographic system for the library's holdings. No thought was given to information as a resource that must be managed; people were not trained accordingly, nor was the organization restructured considering appropriate modern management techniques, changes in information needs, or the development of new services and products.

This less-than-optimal Library was even more evident given the role of Congress. Chilean legislative power is not only held by a bicameral Congress but also by the Executive, which is co-legislator as well. After 17 years without Congress, and with a new Constitution, the Executive branch had more access to information and could pass more knowledgeable legislative bills than Congress. Thus the role of the legislative branch was significantly diminished.

### **The Vision**

Upon the reopening of Congress, user demands for information were surveyed in a project financed by the IOM (International Organisation for Migrations) during late 1990. Not surprisingly, the study showed that Congresspeople needed specialized information and research capabilities previously unavailable in Congress or the Library. The study thus set a general framework for a modernization project for Congress, with the Library serving as one of the major components. A strategic planning workshop subsequently was held, where the Library's mission was established:

**~~The Library of Congress belongs to the Legislative power and~~**

**its mission is to satisfy information and consultancy needs of the National Congress, providing information, documentation, and research services, and facilitating access to information sources.**

**The Library additionally provides information and documentation services to other users that may require them."**

**This mission has meant redefining institutional objectives, which are user-oriented rather than process-oriented. This change of focus has required integration of services previously isolated and promotion of aggregate information products that consider multisource and multilevel user needs. The objectives include finding ways to anticipate and satisfy the information needs of Congress efficiently; organizing the managerial resources, staff, and technology to serve these needs; building the outreach capability of the Congress and the Library through dissemination and publishing; and establishing contacts and exchange agreements with other parliamentary libraries, with participation in national, regional, and international networks and training of staff.**

### **The Project**

**The Chilean Library of Congress Development Project, with external financing, was created to meet the above objectives as a component of a major Congress modernization program. The project is to reinforce and develop new integrated services and products for the Library and upgrade the organization, technological tools, information sources, and training of staff. Thus the Library is to contribute to a knowledge- and analysis-based legislative process.**

**Some of the main tasks of the project are (1) to support the activities of the National Congress by providing information and knowledge and informing public opinion; (2) to support new information and communication technologies and explore nationally and internationally available information sources; (3) to provide flexible**

access to information considering geographic dispersion and the context in which information is provided and disseminated; (4) to obtain the assistance of specialized professionals in new legislative techniques and other functions that pertain to modern parliaments; and (5) to modernize information products and services.

A strategic planning workshop was held in mid-1990. Based on the results of the workshop and an information needs study, a profile for the modernization project was designed. The project components are conceptualized as integrated access to information, common indexes, and a common authority or vocabulary control. The Library is perceived as a "one-stop information shop" that accommodates user needs from any geographical location. Plans are for integration of information technologies with information and knowledge on the one hand, and with analytic and management capabilities on the other; also envisioned are networks, computers, expanded data bases and information resources, addition of analysts and experts, and information tailoring services.

In the framework of the project, Congress itself is considered a major information producer, consumer, and processor, in which the principal components interact -- the Senate, House of Representatives, Library of Congress, Information Offices of the Senate and the House, and other support units. Other actors are the Executive and Judiciary, which also integrate formally and informally with the system.

### **Expected Project Outcome**

One of the first activities of the project will be development of a management consultancy. Consultants will recommend the best alternative for a flexible organizational structure that will fully exploit new information resources and develop quality-based products and services. To facilitate the establishment of a new information working environment within the institution, work will begin to train



~~personnel, bring in experts on different areas of the information environment, and~~  
arrange to send staff for special trainee programs.

Once the people and information resources are in place, the Library's information environment is expected to show marked changes. Users will log into user-friendly interfaces that enable them to search, browse, and navigate legislative data bases; the user will have access to press information, bibliographic data bases, factual data bases, electronic mail, a bill-tracking system, ongoing activities of Congress, agendas, etc. The "one-stop information shop" will integrate information from many diverse sources, both within and outside the Congress, nationally and internationally.

The Library will anticipate information needs and develop products and services according to issues, trends, problems, and possible future information needs, as perceived by an "editorial board" as a result of their daily meetings. It will also prepare information products in accordance with its decisions, which will be actively offered to users. The board's style of working structure will be permanently in tune with users to redefine products and services according to user behavior and needs, and it will work with indicators to evacuate and refocus the outcomes. By definition it will be a flexible and changeable environment. The board will have a small core of key professionals and also resources to procure in-depth specialist analysis when needed.

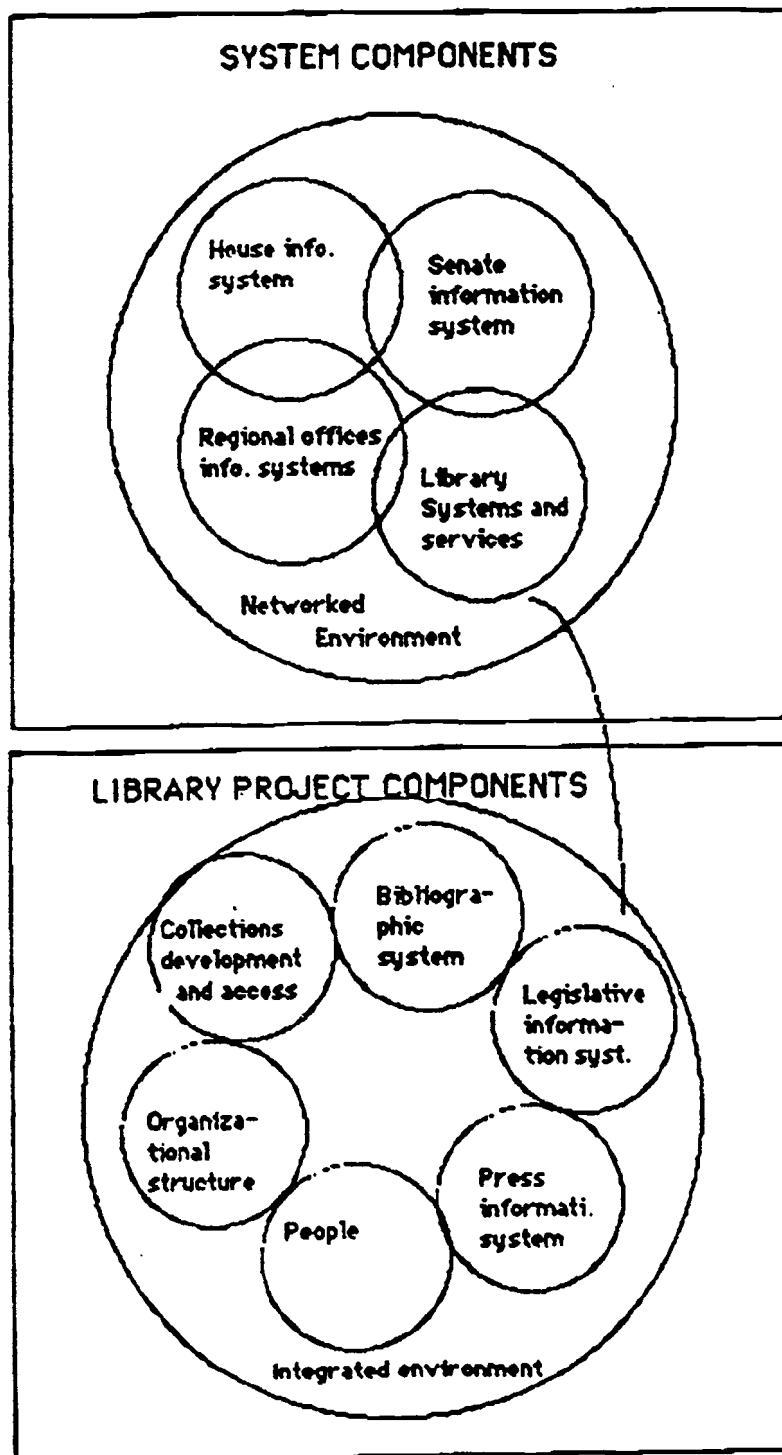
Both short-term and long-term impacts of the project are envisioned. In the short term there will be improved information resources and services for Congress and the legislative process. The project will also contribute to a more efficient and effective Congress, due to systemization of structured processes and professionalization of human resources. The collective output of Congress will be more intelligent, knowledgeable, and economically, financially, environmentally sound legislation. It will also mean a more stimulating working environment for the Library. In the long term, the project will be a major contribution to the country's intelligence and information

awareness. As a showcase of intelligence at work, it will offer new patterns for institutions in the country. It is expected that knowledgeable legislation will bring significant changes to the country, such as prevention of environmental degradation and advantages for competing in the global market.

Nevertheless, a project of this magnitude entails risks. For the implementation to be successful, people involved must share a vision; they must be able to accept new technologies, attitudes, and management styles. This is obviously quite difficult within institutions that have been working along former patterns for too long without change. Furthermore, Congress is, by definition, a self-managing political entity; therefore technical decisions may be politically questioned, modified, or stalled. There is also a cyclic user turnover -- elections mean new representatives, new users, changed outlooks, and perhaps new information needs as a result. This inbred mobility requires an institutional flexibility that allows for change and, unless addressed, could mean risk to the project.

The project to modernize Congress is a major endeavor that goes beyond the walls of the Chilean Congress; incorporating knowledge for development ultimately means augmenting the informational base of the country as a key ingredient of growth and competence in the new world order. As the project develops, the results will be measured and published.

The Library Project is part of a major Congress information system and in itself has the components shown (see Annex 2 for further details):



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## **ANNEX 1: Full text and referential databases of the Library of Congress**

### **Bibliographic Database**

This bibliographic database consists of automated cataloguing records, as well as records taken from older catalog cards. The automated records are handled by NOTIS (Northwestern Total Integrated System) in a network environment shared by several libraries in the country, through RENIB (National Bibliographic Information Network). The Library of Congress thus participates in the Chilean Union List of Serials, in a national cooperative cataloguing effort, an authority project, and a national interlending project. The records are created in MARC format. The database includes 44,000 monographic titles (representing approximately 22% of the collection); and 4,867 serials titles with holdings information (representing approximately 90% of the serials collection).

### **Full text legal database**

This database contains the original text of laws as passed taken from the official source (*Diario Oficial*). This database is not yet complete, but the printed information is being rapidly input into the database. The database uses STAIRS software.

### **Updated full text legal database**

This database has the current, updated, full-text of laws incorporating any changes or amendments passed and published in the official source. Again, the database uses STAIRS software.

### **Law modification and derogation referential database**

This database indexes successive changes in laws. The database uses STAIRS software.

### **History of the law, manual database**

This is a manual database that provides access to information about the evolution of laws and projects within each chamber (Senate and House of Representatives). By using this database it is possible to retrieve the debates that took place on a certain

project or law. These debates often reveal the underlying thought and spirit that went into the passage of the law.

Parliamentary work manual database

This database allows the user to access information on the participation of individual Congresspeople and Government authorities in the legislative process.

Bill tracking database

This is a database developed using STAIRS software that tracks the passage of a bill or project through the legislative process.

## **ANNEX 2: Project components**

- **Organization and management consultancy for the Library administration**

The Library needs a new organizational structure that reflects its mission, objectives, strategic plans and its institutional history. This consultancy will recommend organizational changes, management indicators, personnel management policies, collection development policies and other elements to support the provision of services and products according to this new institutional outlook.

- **Collection development and access**

This project component consists of the acquisition of bibliographic and non-traditional library collections to upgrade the present deficiencies in the collection that exist after 17 years of neglect. Acquisitions will include CD-ROM products, as well as access to external databases and accelerating conversion programs for information available only manually.

- **Bibliographic Information System**

This component will recommend the selection, installation, and start-up of an integrated bibliographic system for the Library. This is necessary because the present demands, multiple locations, transaction volume, and other aspects, require the Library to have its own system to function effectively. We will continue to work and participate in the National Bibliographic Network but will use our own system internally. The system will be obtained by way of a public proposal (tender), so this may necessitate a change of software or the Library could continue with the same platform.

- **Legislative information system**

Because of the growth of text databases and sophisticated user needs, we will continue to upgrade the databases in order to provide the best information services and products

possible. This situation is similar to the one above, in that we may choose a completely new system or continue with the same, but upgraded, platform.

- **Press information system**

Press clippings, which are presently handled manually, is a high-demand service that should be automated for retrieval and conservation purposes. This project will include a feasibility consultancy because it may incorporate such new technologies as image-based databases.

- **Training of personnel**

If the Library is to exploit these systems and offer the services and products intended, it must have properly trained employees. This project will assess the feasibility of in-house training with external experts, in addition to visits and training in other countries.



**IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE NEW DELHI 1992**

**Division: GENERAL RESEARCH LIBRARIES**



**Section/RT: PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES**

**105-PAR(WS)-4-E**

**Joint Meeting with:**

**WORKSHOP THEME (IF APPLICABLE):**

**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE SAUSAD**

**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

**by Shri C.K. Jain,  
Secretary General, Lok Sabha, New Delhi, India**

X

**For internal use only:**

**Meeting No: 134**

**SI: yes/no**

**Estimated number of participants  
in the meeting:**

**30-**

**63**

**PAPER ON**  
**" PARLIAMENT OF INDIA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT "**

C.K. Jain,  
Secretary-General,  
Lok Sabha,  
New Delhi.

**INTRODUCTION**

In a democratic set up, the institution of Parliament is the apex political body in the overall structure for the governance of the country. Therefore, the Parliament of India, representing, as it does, all constitutionally organised shades of public opinion at the national level, occupies a pre-eminent and pivotal position in our constitutional set up. People look to it as a forum through which they can ventilate their grievances and problems and realise their aspirations. The conflicting interests of the people are represented, articulated and rationalised in the Parliament. Parliament thus serves a two-fold purpose, serving the public interest and reflecting popular will.

Over the past more than four decades, Parliament of India has emerged stronger as the premier representative institution of the people, as the chief integrator in the Indian polity, as the symbol of the sovereignty of the people and as the ideal instrument for bringing about rapid economic development and the desired social transformation.

### ITS ORIGIN AND GROWTH

With the coming into force of the Republican Constitution in 1950, a full-fledged parliamentary system of government was established in the country. In the historical setting, democracy is found to be deep-rooted in India. Varied references to democratic forms and institutions are available in the Vedas. The

Rigveda mentions two institutions, sabha and Samiti which are said to have contained the rudiments of a legislature. The tradition of democracy which blossomed in the Vedic age matured further in the post-Vedic period. Several ancient literary works like Arthashastra, Mahabharata and Manusmriti confirm the existence of numerous representative bodies. The local democratic institutions like Gram Sabhas, Gram Sabhas or Panchayats survived and flourished, in one form or the other through the medieval ages and during the British rule because of their collective decision-making process and speedy implementation of decisions taken.

Modern parliamentary institutions evolved gradually during the British rule in the wake of the national liberation movement. But this is not to say that such institutions came about only because of the British influence. The growth of modern parliamentary institu-

tions in India, however, can be traced to our constant struggle against the foreign rule and an urge for establishing free democratic institutions.

The year 1857 was a distinct landmark in the history of modern India. After the War of Independence that year, the British rulers felt the necessity of establishing closer contacts with public opinion in the country.

Realising that the democratic aspirations of the people could not be suppressed for ever, the British rulers set about granting constitutional reforms in bits and pieces. The process began with the Charter Act of 1833 which provided for significant changes in the Government General's Council. Later, the Indian Councils Acts passed in the years 1861, 1892 and 1908 marked a few important steps in this direction. The Indian Councils Act of 1861 set in motion a scheme of legislative devolution. The Indian Councils Act of 1892 sought to give Indians a "real living representation" in the Legislative Council. The Indian Councils Act of 1908, which gave effect to the Minto-Morley reforms, had far-reaching consequences since it provided for a communal system of election.

Thereafter, the Government of India Act of 1919 which gave effect to the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms, established a bicameral legislature at the Centre for

the first time. The Government of India Act of 1935 modified it further by introducing 'autonomy' in the Provinces. However, this federal part of the Act of 1935 could not become operative as the princely States could not be persuaded to accede to the federation. Consequently, the Constitution of the Central Government in India remained the same as it was under the Act of 1919 till the Indian independence Act, 1947.

In accordance with the scheme announced by the Viceroy on 3 June, 1947, the country was divided into two independent dominions - India and Pakistan. The Indian Independence Act, 1947, passed by the British Parliament, declared the Constituent Assembly of India to be a fully sovereign body, and on the midnight of 14-15 August, 1947, the Assembly assumed full powers for the governance of the country. Apart from being a Constitution-making body, it was also to function as the Dominion legislature having full legislative powers as well.

With the coming into force of the Republican Constitution of Independent India on 26 January, 1950, a full-fledged parliamentary system of government with a modern institutional frame work was established. The Constituent Assembly became the Provisional Parliament of India and functioned as such till the first General Elections based on adult franchise were held in 1952 and Parliament was constituted under the provisions of the

new Constitution. Since then, ten general elections have been held till date. As a result of the last general election, the Tenth Lok Sabha was constituted on 20 June, 1991.

#### COMPOSITION

The Constitution of India provides for a Parliament consisting of the President and two Houses known as the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha).

The President of India is elected by an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies. Under the Constitution, the executive power of the Union is vested in the President to be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him. The executive power of the Union is co-extensive with the legislative power of Parliament.

The Council of states (Rajya Sabha) was constituted for the first time on 3 April, 1952. Under the Constitution, Rajya Sabha consisted of not more than 250 members. Of these, 12 are nominated by the President and the remaining 238 seats are allocated to various States and Union territories, roughly in proportion of their population, each State, however, is represented by at

least one member. The representatives of each State are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of the State in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. Rajya Sabha is a permanent body-a continuing House not subject to dissolution. While the term of an individual member of Rajya Sabha is six years, one third of its members retire at the expiration of every second year in accordance with the provisions made in that behalf by Parliament by law. The Vice-President is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

The Lok Sabha is composed of representatives of the people chosen by direct election on the basis of universal adult suffrage. Presently Lok Sabha has 543 elected members out of which 130 are directly elected from territorial constituencies in the States and 13 represent the Union territories. Besides, two members have been nominated by the President from the Anglo-Indian community, in accordance with the provision in the Constitution authorizing him to make such nomination if in his opinion, that community is not adequately represented in the House. Lok Sabha has some seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in almost all the States and Union territories. Besides, two members have been nominated by the President from the Anglo-Indian community, in accordance with the provision in the Constitution authorizing him to make

such nomination if in his opinion, that community is not adequately represented in the House. Lok Sabha has some seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in almost all the States and Union territories. This House, unless, sooner dissolved, continues for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting. However, while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, this period may be extended by Parliament for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending, in any case, beyond a period of six months after the proclamation has ceased to operate.

#### Sessions

Normally, the Parliament holds three sessions in a year : (i) Budget Session (February-May); (ii) Monsoon Session (July-September); and (iii) Winter Session (November-December). In the case of Rajya Sabha, the Budget Session is split up in two sessions and, therefore, it has four sessions in a year.

#### ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN INDIAN POLITY

Over four decades have passed by since India emerged as a free nation. During this period, our people have demonstrated their political maturity by zealously guarding the nation's security, ensuring its political stability and maintaining its status as the largest working democracy among the comity of nations. The



successful conduct of periodic elections of Lok Sabha, State Legislatures and other democratic bodies with the people's active participation in the electoral process demonstrates their strong faith and trust in the system. Parliamentary system, despite several challenges has been a great success in India- the system has been able to bring about and maintain the unity and integrity of the country and to promote the well-being of its citizens.

Over the years, our Parliament has grown into a multi functional institution performing a variety of roles. Parliament today is not merely a law-making body. It performs other functions as well and these include: legitimising function - legitimising what the Government does representational function from which follows the grievance ventilation or grievance redressal function; the national integration function; the conflict-resolution function and the leadership recruitment and training function.

The primary function of Parliament in a modern democracy is to represent the people. For a Member of Parliament his first and foremost duty is of representing people and giving expression to their difficulties, problems and grievances and seeking solutions to them. Debates and discussions on legislative proposals or Financial Bills, Motions to consider and approve Govern-

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ment policies, Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and Budget, etc are devices which enable the members to freely express themselves and to say what modifications of the existing policy are required. The discussions are important for they indicate the parliamentary mood and bring the impact of public thinking on the administrative apparatus which may otherwise remain immune to public sentiments and feelings.

Parliament as the supreme representative institution in the country, has played a vital role in shaping the destinies of the people in different ways. While the general elections provided opportunity to the people to elect a candidate of any party, these elections are also a permanent reminder to these parties that what ultimately matters is the will of the people which should not be taken for granted for parliament and its members are answerable to the people.

The conflict-resolution and integrational role of Parliament is specially significant in the context of our highly pluralistic society. The members of Parliament come from different parts of the country, with different educational backgrounds, from diverse professional fields and from dissimilar age groups, and having their own political affiliations. But they are all united by their single most important credential of being elected representatives of the people. Parliament in a way is a microcosm of the nation itself. It is only

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natural then, that the debates and discussions bring out into the open the underlying tension and resentments in society. But the interesting thing to note is that despite conflicting ideals and interests and struggle for power by various contending forces, Parliament emerges as a potent conflict-resolution mechanism. This is because parliamentary rules and procedures are such that they facilitate a reconciliation of diverging and often conflicting interests and the emergence of ideas which will subserve best the national interest.

Under the Constitution of India, Parliament is the supreme legislative body at the national level. The scheme of distribution of powers between the Centre and the State, followed in the Constitution of India, emphasises in many ways the general predominance of Parliament in the legislative field. Apart from the wide range of subjects allotted to it in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, even in normal times Parliament can, under certain circumstances assume legislative power over a subject falling within the sphere exclusively reserved for the States.

Besides the power to legislate on a very wide range of subjects, the Constitution vests in Parliament the power to initiate amendments to the Constitution.

In the legislative field, Parliament has come to

play a major role in the socio-economic transformation. It has been able to transform the existing social institutions by means of social legislation. A large number of social reforms legislations such as laws providing for minimum wages, old-age pensions, special guarantees and benefits from the state to the Scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes in the form of reservations, social security, removal of disabilities, etc. have been passed by Parliament since the commencement of the Constitution.

Parliament has, thus, grown into a multi-functional institution today. Its functions encompass all aspects of the life of the nation and its people. It has been a key actor in the great task of nation building and has come to represent the people's hopes and fears, urges and aspirations. We can safely look forward the Parliament marching forward with renewed vigour and dynamism in the years ahead as the sheet-anchor of our parliamentary democracy and as the most effective mechanism for redressal of the grievances of the people.

#### NEED FOR DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR PARLIAMENTS

To deliberate, discuss and take decisions, Parliament needs timely, non-partisan, factual, objective, authoritative and full information. Information is not just an aggregate of knowlege but a level of awareness

on a given set of issues that enables the Parliament, when a development occurs, to react to it swiftly and confidently. Information in this sense is crucial to Parliaments. As the supreme deliberative and law making body for the country, Parliament must have unrestrained access to information. For proper functioning of democracy it is necessary that adequate information resources be provided to the opposition, Government backbenchers and Parliamentary Committees because without adequate information, they cannot ensure governmental accountability.

Dissemination of information is especially urgent and widespread in countries having the parliamentary form of Government, since Parliament serves the dual purpose of keeping the Government in touch with the public opinion and the public in touch with the policies and programmes of Government. Parliament being the supreme deliberative organ under our system of government, a wide range of subjects, issues and problems embracing almost all spheres of national and international activities come up for discussion before it from time to time. In the present day technological and scientific era, developments are taking place in every sphere at an amazingly fast rate. Members of Parliament are expected to be abreast with most of these developments in order to be able to make an effective contribution to the deliberations of the House. Backed by their

specific professional backgrounds and occupational patterns some of the members are already quite familiar with the subject and developments of their interest, but they may always like to have a feed back on latest developments and changes in a wide range of other fields as well. This means that members of Parliament require a feed-back of information on a variety of subjects, almost round the clock.

Members working in the committees need to have academic or practical expertise in matters of finance and office management. They cannot afford to depend exclusively on the material supplied by the government departments. If our committees have to efficiently discharge their specific responsibility to keep watch over the various departments of the government, they must have independent means of collecting material.

The sources of a parliamentarian's information are many but in as much as a modern government is the greatest single monopolists of information, most legislatures and legislators-more particularly in the developing nations-have to rely very heavily on the executive departments for their information requirements. Even though the information supplied by official government sources is efficiently collected and processed, it may sometimes, consciously or unconsciously get slanted or biased in favour of the ends of government and may not

always be considered entirely factual and objective. Information from other sources like the mass media, interest groups or lobbyist, etc would be even less so.

Hence, it is imperative for a legislature to develop its own independent speciallised system for collection, storage and retrieval of informaion. It implies that a member of parliament should have access to a well equipped library. He must also receive on a continuous and regular basis, factual, non - partisan, objective and reliable information and authoratative data on a wide range of problems facing the nation and the issues arising before the Parliament.

#### INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN INDIA

In India, this service is provided by the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Services (LARRDIS), With a view to keeping the members well informed of the day to day developments in India and abroad, LARRDIS has not only to reckon with the problem of increasing the flow of useful and authentic information into the Library in the form of latest books and publications, journals and newspapers, but more importantly to undertake selective information management so as to ensure quick retrieval at short notice. Hence, an up-to-date and well equipped Library-backed by prompt and efficient research and reference services meets all the information needs of the members.

Parliament Library is today one of the finest and richest repositories in the country. It provides valuable service to the members through its vast collection of books, reports, Government publications, Debates of foreign Parliaments and State Legislatures in India, Gazettes of Union and State Governments and other documents from almost the entire field of human activities. However, our Library is not only a repository of books. It also helps the members in shorting out information within the shortest possible time. In order to keep pace with the advances in information technology, the Library also renders computerised information services to the members of Parliament, officers of Parliament and Research and Reference personnel.

Over the years, our Reference Services has been found to be quite useful by the members of Parliament as it has been able to supply to them all the desired information in an easily digestible and readily usable form and within the time stipulated by them. Members' Reference Service supplies on the spot information to members, disseminates latest information and factual data in response to member's written references requisitions besides preparing fact sheets, Bibliographical Notes and Backgrounds Notes, etc on such topical issues as are likely to be discussed in the two Houses from time to time.



The Research Division of LARRDIS endeavours to keep members informed on a continuing basis about the current national and international issues in various field by bringing out such publications as Brochures, Fact-sheets, Information Bulletins, Background Notes, etc It prepares briefs/background materials for the use of members attending various national and international parliamentary conferences and also bring out from time to time books, monographs and other literature on topics of interest to members.

The Press and Public Relations Wing maintains liaison with the Press and various Government publicity organisations and communication media. Members are kept informed about the latest news, national as well as international through the teleprinter installed in the Parliament House. Also, vital information pertaining to the on-going business in the two Houses of Parliament is displayed through a C.C.T.V. system by means of monitors installed at various strategic points in the Parliament House. Televising and Broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings has also been introduced to meet the informational requirements of the public as well as the members of Parliament.

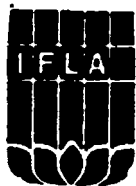
The approach of LARRDIS in retrieval, analysis organisation and dissemination of information is thus specifically oriented towards achieving its distinct objective of supplying authentic, essential and timely

information to members of both the Houses so as to enable them to participate effectively in the debates of their respective Houses.

### CONCLUSION

The supremacy and authority of Parliament in a parliamentary polity emanate from the fact that while the will of the people is expressed through Parliament, it has also to keep an eye on the activities of the executive government. It acts as a conduit to inform the government about the people and the people about the government they have reposed their faith in. In order to discharge its responsibilities effectively, Parliament must be richly informed. Information is the most vital resource for development and the information needs of legislators in developing countries are the most urgent and vital to their effective functioning. In this context, it becomes imperative for the legislatures to develop their own institutionalized sources of information, independent information reservoirs and specialized dissemination procedures. Hence the importance of information management cannot be overemphasised in the strengthening of parliamentary institutions. The information service in the Indian Parliament has been largely successful in meeting this challenge.

# IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE NEW DELHI 1992



Division:

General Research Libraries

Section/RT:

University Libraries and  
other General Research  
Libraries

Joint Meeting with:

21-UN-1-E

WORKSHOP THEME (IF APPLICABLE):

Information services in a university library

- will the 21st century bring us anything  
different or will it be more of the same

by

A.J.Evans

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## ABSTRACT

### Information Services in a university library

- will the 21st century bring us anything  
different or will it be more of the same

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The basic pattern of information services is going through a dramatic change - or is it? Is the work of a reference librarian significantly different in professional approach than it was many years ago?

This paper attempts to look at the differences over the last twenty years and in particular describes a research project concerned with the evaluation of a 'workstation' for the provision of engineering information.

-will the 21st Century bring us anything different or will it be more of the same?

Almost exactly 20 years ago an FID seminar was held in Budapest alongside the 38th IFLA conference on the theme

"Organization of Information Services in Less Industrialized Countries" - Dorothy Anderson (of UBC fame) and I presented a paper (1) the summary of which included the following:-

"In a less industrialized country, internally, information services must be integrated as a part of the total library, bibliographical and documentation system, and will contribute as part of the national bibliographic service; externally information services will be the country's link with the international communications network; will draw upon that network to help fulfil the country's total needs in a particular field, or research area and will contribute to that network with items from it's country's own scientific or technical specialist literature which will be recorded in the form acceptable to the international world"

The year before that, 1971, had seen the first UNISIST conference in Paris and the Synopsis of the full report (2) prepared especially for that meeting included two interesting paragraphs (and indeed in retrospect VERY interesting paragraphs!)

Firstly - " However, most experienced observers would agree that computer technology cannot provide a solution for all the problems of scientific communication. The traditional institutions of scientific journals, of abstracting and indexing publications, of textbooks and libraries have strong survival values, and will not be superceded tomorrow by console displays of retrieved text, or programmed

instruction. The technologically advanced countries will be operating conventional and computer-based scientific information systems in parallel for a long time to come."

I think you might agree that that statement is still probably at the very least some 95% valid.

The second paragraph I wanted to refer to was of a slightly different nature and was in fact

**" Recommendation 7. Library infrastructure**

A strong library system should be recognized as an essential component of scientific information transfer in modern times. In collaboration with the international and national organizations concerned (IFLA, IATUL, etc.), UNISIST should direct its efforts to a statement of the minimum set of functions and levels of performance that scientific libraries - and eventually special depositories - ought to maintain for their optimum performance"

We don't seem to have got very far with this in the last 20 years do we? I would indeed recommend that the full Study Report (3) of that UNISIST meeting is well worth reading - it is a salutary experience!

In my own University we established our in-depth information service in 1969 - over 23 years ago - as distinct of course from the traditional readers services. At that time it was inevitably entirely manual although it was not that long after in 1975 - some 17 years ago - when we carried out our first on-line search. At such times we thought that we had solved all our information problems - much like the situation some 20 years before that when microfilm was said to be the answer to all our storage problems.

Only recently two of my colleagues wrote an internal report (4) with the aim of showing the University how information provision had, and indeed is, continuing to change and develop - not only as a result of information technology but also as a result of changes in teaching methods. These phenomena accompanied by rapid increases in student

numbers are resulting in what can only be called 'controlled chaos' where 'firefighting' is the order of the day rather than 'controlled development' albeit at a rather faster pace than our predecessors were used to in a traditional academic environment.

They commented on the fact that "Increasingly sophisticated online searching techniques, the proliferation and scope of the number of online databases, CD-ROM databases, and the current and potential developments relating to distributed databases on networks have all had a considerable impact upon both information services and library users". Later in the report they went on to say - "Until relatively recently the vast majority of undergraduates used a limited range of library resources ...mostly recommended on reading lists. In this way they became sufficiently familiar with the relevant library resources to be able to locate a good proportion of material for themselves (particularly with a good user education programme): in this context undergraduate enquiry work was reasonably straight forward. Information staff normally expected the more complex enquiries to arise from research and academic staff.

We are now however in an entirely different age - the introduction of online catalogues and even more the effect of CD-ROMS has created a quite different learning environment for students. There is however also a word of warning that must be introduced here - whilst electronic sources might be seen to resolve the problems of bibliographic access they do in fact also raise many new problems. Not only do students require guidance in making judgments about relevance and selectivity but the material they require is often no longer 'automatically' available within the four walls of the library thus placing additional strain upon budgets and services.

A more recent development is the availability of the ISI databases on the national academic network (JANET). We now have some 500 registered users across the campus who in the first year of

~~operation had almost 3000 access sessions - it should also be~~

mentioned that this service is available from their own offices and thus the 'drag' up to the library is avoided. At least that part of their information provision is!

BUT - WE ARE STILL ONLY PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT INFORMATION!!

What are we actually trying to do to help this transfer of information? In general and in the university world in particular of course we are trying to provide the means for a scholar to add in some way or other to the sum total of human knowledge - it sounds a little pretentious but I would submit that that is what it is. At the moment what happens in very simplistic terms is that a scientist thinks - reads around the subject - carries out some research - writes down the results to tell the world how creative he's been - publishes it in the highest quality journal he can persuade to accept it - and then sits back in the hope that another scientist when he is reading around his subject will come across it. It may be of course that he 'comes across it' by the thorough search of an electronic database or more likely (the cynics would say) by serendipity.

We are therefore dealing essentially with the mechanics of that bit of the whole communication process from the time the researcher actually writes his results down, to the time the next researcher picks it up from one source or another. Merely converting the quill pen to the electronic signal!

Traditionally it was essential to teach future reference librarians how to deal with enquiry work - how to interpret the user's needs and of course find the answers 'on the library's shelves' - in those far off days there was seemingly an acceptance that this was essentially as far as one could go - now of course there is a growing lack of acceptance that unless the total world's output of research literature is searched then we are not providing an adequate service. "As the number of major databases available on our 'Joint academic



~~network' increases, it is unlikely, given current funding levels, that~~

the Library could make even a small proportion of them available to the campus community, however desirable that might be. Although it is difficult to predict the precise nature of the impact on the Library of networked databases and end-user searching, recent experience with CD-ROM indicates dramatic and far-reaching consequences" (4)

On the matter of end-user searching it was interesting to see a view expressed by King Research Incorporated (5) - "Admittedly, end users of information do tend to perform some of their own information searches, particularly when they have become comfortable with available systems. However, as they do more searching they recognise that more of their time is being taken up with information searching and retrieval activities. they learn that there are numerous sources of information to choose from and that sources change over time, in terms of coverage, procedures for use etc. Once they recognise the complexity of information searching and retrieval they begin to return to the intermediary."

This is however by no means everybody's view. In an excellent paper given by Michael Malinconico (6) at the Portuguese Library Association Conference in Braga earlier this year he posed an interesting conundrum when he said - "It is ironic that the new information services which will substantially increase user's need for the assistance of information specialists, will at the same time reduce their contact with those individuals. Nor, can we expect that many users will seek assistance even though they need it."

In a rather different context such statements were of course made some twenty five years ago when user education in university libraries was just beginning to blossom - it has if anything however improved and accelerated our professional activity rather than reduce it.

~~I said earlier that we are still only providing 'information~~

about information' - that is of course only a half-truth in this age of full-text database services but there is however inevitably a price to pay. Even in a country such as India, which can hardly be called a developing country in library terms, the two inevitable problems of document supply and even more so, finance, rear their ugly heads. Indeed the latter is not getting any easier anywhere but it is of course a relative one. There is little doubt that one of the major problems that must be overcome, if at all possible, is that of frustration - frustration of knowing that all this marvellous information is available and then not being able to get hold of it for weeks or months or perhaps ever!

If I may be allowed to parody Hamlet :-

"To have or not to have, that is the question;

Whether 'tis nobler to use the human brain

Or to take arms against a sea of troubles

And install a tele-link to that far distant place

Who hath no soul yet answers back incessantly"

You may remember earlier in the same play when Polonius was advising Laertes he said - "neither a borrower or a lender be". He was of course talking about money rather than books however!

For the latter half of this paper let us try and move away from theory and philosophy and look in some detail at a project we are carrying out in my university at Loughborough - it could be that it is in a country such as India where with its five Institutes of Technology and an enviable history of Engineering education there is a particular relevance. Also I noticed only recently that S.K.Joshi, the Director of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in India commented that in future funding from the Council would concentrate on

Engineering oriented retrieval system might therefore be of some significant interest.

We have been given the opportunity at Loughborough to investigate in depth a particular development by Engineering Information Inc. in the USA called 'Ei Reference Desk'. It is financially supported by the British Library Research and Development Department and also involves collaboration with their Document Supply Centre. Ei themselves have freely provided hardware and software as well as CD-ROMS and access to online databases.

An integrated database and software package has been developed by them with the following features:-

- (a) Online information retrieval of Compendex files
- (b) Offline CD-ROM searching
- (c) Access to a 'Table of contents service' for current awareness
- (d) A document delivery service (EiDDS) which will use any of a variety of means such as post, fax, direct transmission etc.

The particular feature of the development is the creation of a personal information workstation for engineers. The intention as such is not the consideration of information provision in the engineering area, but the workstation/reference desk aspects using the Ei system as an example. The very positive bonus to the test group of engineers is of course that they are getting completely free high quality information provision to meet their actual and precise needs (even more so since the library has just started charging users for interloans!)

The objectives of the research project are as follows:-

1. The principal objective as already indicated is to investigate and evaluate the use of 'Ei Reference Desk' in a technological university environment where there is an

the campus.

2. To investigate the problems of document delivery in cooperation with BLDSC.
3. To consider the use of such a 'tool' on the context of user education

It had also been hoped to investigate the possible linking of the Ei system with the University network (parallel with our OPAC) either through the library's own Data General machine or alternatively the University's mainframe - it now seems however that our hands will be full on the first three objectives and any further work will necessitate more time and more importantly more financial support.

We are however looking at such questions as:-

- \* What is the best way of delivering Ei Reference Desk data and software?
- \* How can it be interfaced with other sources?
- \* What range of clients are best served by it and are there significant differences in the needs of various client groups?
- \* What value, perceived and real does it have for clients?
- \* What documentation (guidance etc.) is needed to supplement that which is provided by the system?
- \* Is there an impact on browsing/serendipity by providing a client/researcher with (apparently) all that is needed in one package?
- \* Is there an impact on client productivity through its use?
- \* What impact on document demand does it have?
- \* What impact on document use does it have?

A more explicit description was given by one of my colleagues at the UK Serials group conference earlier this year (7) with the title

**workstation"**

[from the Latin cornu copiae - 'horn of plenty', the horn of the goat Amalthea by which the infant Zeus was suckled - Amalthea was otherwise represented as a nymph of uncertain parentage!]

A test group has now been established of 37 members of academic staff and researchers evenly distributed between six engineering departments. Preliminary results suggest that most people prefer to do the searching themselves, after a basic training session rather than use an intermediary (in contrast to the King Research Inc. findings referred to earlier). However some of the results indicate, as we might expect, that the search would have had more relevance and been more comprehensive if somebody more familiar with the system had conducted the search. In many cases inappropriate search options and strategies had been used. Comparative studies are also being carried out throughout the trials between Ei Reference, online, and printed abstract sources.

The first 'published' information regarding Ei Reference desk was given by John Regazzi, the President of Engineering Information Inc. in 1989 (8) when he said "It's unlikely the founders of Information Engineering Inc. - or Engineering Index, as it was called 105 years ago - envisioned that some day the media of delivery would become almost as important as the scope of its index." In some ways one might argue that in our project we don't really care how and where the information comes from as long as it makes the customer happy!

The future grandiose plans of Ei are to establish an international network (EiNet) in partnership with the major technical information centres around the world in order that engineers and scientists can

- (a) Access all engineering databases (initially bibliographic)
- (b) Capture bibliographic citations in a fast and convenient way

(c) Order the full text of documents electronically

(d) Receive delivery of full-text documents on request by mail,  
fax or over Internet or equivalent systems

(e) Receive electronic newsletters

(f) Communicate electronically between readers, writers and  
researchers through electronic mail, bulletin boards etc.

All that by just sitting at one workstation! - it is in effect  
the exact opposite of the chained library and much more likely  
to cause indigestion - Oh for the good old days!

Whether I have answered the question I posed in the title of this  
paper is however now for you to decide.

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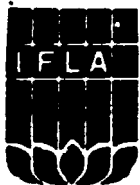
Newsidic No. 97, October 1989

[I wish to record my very sincere thanks to my colleagues

Eric Davies, Sandra Price, Hazel Woodward and Mary Hodgkinson  
for permission to reproduce large portions of their unpublished  
writings]



**Division:** General Research Libraries



**Section/RT:** University Libraries and other  
General Research Libraries

22-UN-2-E

**Joint Meeting with:**

**WORKSHOP THEME (IF APPLICABLE):**

The Changing Role of the University Library -  
Crafting a More Effective Role for the Library

by

Frances K. Groen

Acting Director and Associate Director of Libraries,  
McGill University Montreal, Canada

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**Estimated number of participants  
in the meeting:**

104

## **ABSTRACT**

### **The Changing Role of the University Library - Crafting a More Effective Role for the Library**

**Frances K. Groen, Acting Director and Associate  
Director of Libraries,  
McGill University, Montreal, Canada**

This paper suggests ways in which the librarian can become more effective through a richer understanding of the library's institutional culture and a more creative approach to planning. The paper is in two parts: part one examines university libraries as an organic entity within the political, cultural and institutional context. It identifies the major influences upon university libraries in North America which have determined their development and contrasts the United States and Canadian situation. Having identified a means of defining the library through its environment, the paper proceeds in part two to suggest ways in which libraries can control or change their environment through planning for change. It emphasizes the need for a symbiotic relationship between the library and its institutional context in setting objectives for the library and for the institution. The paper draws upon the literature of library administration, management and the author's experience with Association planning as Immediate Past President of the Medical Library Association, and Planning Project Coordinator, McGill University Libraries.

**The Changing Role of the University Library -  
Crafting a More Effective Role for the Library  
Frances Groen, Associate Director of Libraries  
McGill University**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The need to become more effective, to contribute more to the organization has become more important to the survival and the growth of all libraries. Many library associations in North America are also contributing to the effectiveness of libraries by studying and publicizing the value of the information professional. Within the University environment, the library has to compete with other academic units for an appropriate share of university resources on the average about six percent of the global university annual budget. This competition is increasingly rigorous and demanding. To compete successfully, the academic librarian must, first and foremost, understand the changing nature of the University and align the justification of the library within the framework of the University as a whole. Planning for the enhancement of collections and services becomes more successful when library goals are linked with the overall goals of the University. Therefore, the successful librarian becomes part of a university-wide planning process, and the library plan on which the application for resources is based, becomes part of the overall plan for the University. Integrated planning is essential, both to spend scarce resources in a manner most appropriate and to justify to the community the resources that have been allocated to the library. Therefore, an essential step for the librarian is to understand the parent organization. Using McGill University and its libraries as a model, I shall explore the planning process within the University and how the library is linked to that process.

The academic library planning process also includes a review of the relationship of the university library with other similar libraries. The overall ranking or comparison of the libraries' resources with peer institutions becomes an annual event, in the justification of the libraries' appropriation.

Two characteristics, therefore, are found in all successful academic library planning: (1) a clear

understanding of the university's goals and priorities and (2) a careful analysis and comparison of the library with appropriate peer libraries.

**1. Understanding the University - the McGill Planning Experience**

McGill University and its libraries originated in the 1820's as an anglophone institution, with a special prominence in medical education. In fact, the University's first faculty was the Faculty of Medicine, established as the first medical school in Canada, at a time when many North American physicians were being educated in Europe. The prominence of medicine, at the University continues to the present. Education for other professions - law, medicine and engineering - continue as an important university priority. The University, at present, offers PhD degrees in 55 disciplines. This brief description suggests a traditional, conservative academic environment, and this picture, was until fairly recently, an accurate description.

The Quebec scene has been in a state of evolution since the early 1960's when the so called "Quiet Revolution" of the Liberals began to have an impact on the culture. The University like most universities throughout North America, adapted to the new and more open values of the 1960's, but this spirit of freedom was more deeply felt within Quebec as a language and cultural identity issue as well as a social/intellectual movement. Today, it is not an exaggeration to say that Quebec holds the future of Canada. How will a traditional, anglophone University and its libraries survive in this period of change?

In 1976, following the election of the *Partie Québécois*, the self-declared party of separation, thousands of English speaking Quebecers left the province. Since then McGill has been evolving and strengthening its role in a multi-cultural society. Increasingly, it looks to a French student body and to a growing international student population. Of the approximately 30,000 students enrolled at the University, 20% come from outside the province and 10% from outside Canada. There are 128 different countries represented in the 3,200 foreign students. The University also

continues to broaden its' base of programs: the approximately 1500 professors are scattered throughout 110 departments with 7 schools and 12 faculties. Today, 20% of our students are francophone, where in 1965, only 5% were French speaking. The overall university budget for 1991 was 431 million dollars.

## **2. Planning within the University**

This brief description will indicate that the parent university is relatively old and well established with a somewhat conservative institutional culture. The enthusiasm for strategic management did not come early to the University, although academic planning and priorities had always been a consideration in the governance of the University. Canadian institutions of higher education did not experience, on the whole, the enormous expansion of higher education seen in the universities of the United States in the 1960's, although some expansion did occur, both in the establishment of new campuses and new professional schools.

Financing showed some signs of a diminishing availability for universities in the 1970's, and university administrators became concerned to marshall their resources more prudently. The provincial government, which is responsible for financing education at all levels, also was becoming increasingly concerned with the allocation of resources and with the rationalization of academic programs and their support. Increasingly, universities were required to spend more prudently, and planning was seen as a means of improving the rational distribution of resources within the institution. Formula funding, usually driven by student numbers, became the basis on which the government was allocating funding to the University.

Setting academic priorities and planning within the University became a matter of increasing concern and necessity, both to establish a more reasoned basis on which to make financial decisions and to provide the opportunity to introduce new areas of intellectual inquiry, particularly in science and technology. By the early 1980's McGill University, like most North

American institutions of higher learning had a method for reviewing all its academic units in a systematic fashion. At McGill this method consisted of a two step process in which the unit under review prepared a self-study of its program, including the following components:

- a short history of the unit
- a description of the courses taught
- a description of the current research programs
- an analysis of the program support, including space, library collections, staff and budget

Once a self-study report was completed by the unit being reviewed, it provided the basic background information for a study team, composed of 4 or 5 members of the University community who were not members of the unit under review. Since McGill University aspires to a level of excellence comparable to major universities throughout North America, the guidelines for review required the unit to compare itself with similar departments in Canada and North America. External evaluators, one from Canada, and a second from a major U.S. University, were consultants to the review team. The Review Team prepared its report which included recommendations for change, improvement and, quite frequently the allocation of additional resources. This report was then received by a senior academic body within the University which reviewed and evaluated the recommendations of the review committee and, in the final phase, the unit under review was charged with implementing the recommendations thus approved. Most units were reviewed twice during the 1980's.

In 1990, the Libraries had not been reviewed under this program, and it became increasingly evident that such a review would be of benefit. Library collections in support of a particular discipline, for example, biochemistry, Canadian history, or Islamic Studies, had been reviewed, within the context of the departmental review, but there had not been a comprehensive review of the Libraries. Library collection reviews done in the context of a specific discipline tended

to be somewhat impressionistic or anecdotal on matters pertaining to the collections and library support of the discipline. At times, no mention whatsoever was made of the library. However, the task of reviewing all the eighteen libraries of the University in a coordinated and integrated fashion seemed daunting, to administrators, academics and librarians alike. The opportunity had to wait until the University was to put in place a major planning initiative that resulted in a Task Force on Priorities. The Libraries were fortunate, although not every staff member may agree with me, in being a focus of attention in the Task Force of Priorities. This was for reasons of the collections and the increasing use (and costs) of the library automation process. The needs of the library were clear, but the resources were not there to meet all the needs. Branch library closings, which no administrator welcomes, were occurring and becoming more necessary for economic reasons. Exceedingly controversial at the best of times, these closures required open discussion and debate on the strengths and weaknesses of these units, and a systematic review of the libraries offered a theatre in which this debate could occur.

### 3. Planning within the Libraries

Before a self-study of libraries could be completed, a basic conceptual approach to this analysis needed to be designed. This conceptual approach had to consider the history of the libraries and the present environment in which the study was being conducted. It was important to the success of the study to accomplish this thoughtfully, not in a mechanistic or arbitrary fashion, that is, in a fashion similar to a craft or artisan's approach. This approach to strategy, one that crafts rather than plans strategy, has been described as "different as craft is from mechanization. What springs to mind is not so much thinking and reason as involvement, a feeling of intimacy and harmony with the materials at hand, developed through long experience and commitment. Formulation and implementation merge into a fluid process by which effective strategies come to be. The planning image, long popular in the literature, distorts these processes and thereby

misguides organizations that embrace in unreservedly."<sup>1</sup>

This metaphor of crafting strategy is particularly relevant and fruitful for older academic libraries. A new approach was needed to capture the imagination and the assistance of an aging library staff whose loyalties tended to align with the individual academic discipline served by the library rather than with the Library System as an organizational entity. A relatively large number of libraries, eighteen at McGill, tended to foster this disciplinary allegiance at the expense of duplication of resources and dissipation of energy. Yet automation, in its broadest application, was creating a centrifugal force that was accelerating in momentum. The organizational strengths and capabilities were strong and decentralized, but a new strategic direction and paradigm shift was required to meet the challenges of new technology and limited resources. The past strengths of the libraries, strong and decentralized, had to be crafted to mould a strong, coordinated library system that was integrated in every sense of that overused word. That was and continues to be the challenge facing decentralized academic research libraries.

My remarks are beginning to use the language of planning, and I want to clarify a few basic concepts before proceeding further. The ongoing process of administration of libraries in the information age requires a practical ability in strategic management and strategic planning; planning is a tool, and a very powerful one, of the manager. Strategy is another word for plan; it is a map. A strategy is both forward looking and backward looking, a sort of Janus faced warrior with a book in his hand, describing past campaigns or patterns of behaviour within the organization, and a map in his pocket leading to future encounters. The concept of crafting, introduced by Mintzberg in his classic article, allows strategies to emerge through a creative rather than militaristic process. This was an ideal approach to the library planning process at our

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<sup>1</sup> Mintzberg, Henry. "Crafting Strategy." in The Strategy process: concepts, contexts, cases. N. J. Prentice Hall, 1991, p. 105.



**University.**

The preparation of the Library Study proceeded, in a manner designed to maximize staff involvement and commitment. Key library staff were enlisted as leaders of six study groups

- Collection Development
- Preserving and Housing the Collection
- Information Systems and Technical Services
- The Staff
- Service to Users
- Organization and Management

Each study group consisted of 5 to 6 members, with representatives from senior management and operation level librarians as well as library assistants. In addition, the project coordinator completed a history of libraries and prepared a statistical comparison of McGill University Libraries with other research libraries in North America. In North America, we were fortunate in having available the annual statistics compiled by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Other data were available - those compiled by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries and those of the Subcommittee on Libraries of the Conference des recteurs et principaux du Quebec. The choice of the ARL data was determined by the role our parent institution has designed for itself - the role of an international university with a determination to reach standards of excellence in both teaching and research.

Following the completion of this Self-Study Report, it was forwarded to the University for use in its review of the Libraries. The recommendations of this review team, consisting entirely of academic staff from outside the libraries, are being reviewed and either accepted or rejected by the Policy Planning Group within the University. This final filtering will result in new directions for our libraries. Its conclusions will be the bases of our strategic plan for the 1990's.

## II. RELEVANCE OF THE PLANNING MODEL

The process I have been describing may strike you as long, unduly complex, even turgid. What are the important features of this process that may be of use to other libraries in other settings? Is there anything here in the McGill experience that might be useful to you or your libraries, wherever they are?

Let me use the remainder of my time to share my reflections on lessons learned in this process:

- 1) Planning is natural; it is straightforward and necessary; libraries cannot survive without it.
- 2) Planning is process; it is not a completed document; it becomes a way of thought.
- 3) Planning must be in context. A library plan must be outward looking, conceived in the context of the parent organization. Linking library planning with institutional planning is essential.
- 4) Process is important. In an egotistical moment, it is possible to think that an intelligent, experienced librarian can lock herself away for several weeks and write a plan. The document might be even better, more coherent, than one produced by a group process. But the result, in terms of support for difficult and necessary changes, would not be achieved.
- 5) Human resources are our most important asset. The improvement of staff to create recommendations that have the hope of being implemented is essential to the organization.

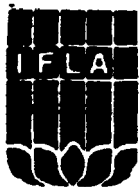
## III. CONCLUSION

The questions of career management and motivation are common to librarians throughout the world. All librarians share a common goal - to provide access to information and to preserve the intellectual heritage. Librarians also share a common need - to feel that what they are doing has a significance within their institutions. The planning process can help to achieve this goal; it can also help to make the library more visible within the institution and to recognize the unique and vital role played by the librarian.

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Division: General Research Libraries

Section/RT: University Libraries and other  
General Research Libraries.

23-UN-3-E

Joint Meeting with:

WORKSHOP THEME (IF APPLICABLE):

University Libraries in India

by

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and Information Science (Retd)

T.C. 17-26 Jagathy,

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## ABSTRACT

### University Libraries in India

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There are, today, 189 universities and 7121 colleges in India with an enrolment of 44,25000 students and employing 2,62000 teachers. Each university and college has a library attached to it to support its programmes.. There is wide disparity between the different university libraries in respect of budget, book resources and services. The college libraries suffer from many deficiencies.

The absence of a rational funding policy has led to the haphazard development of libraries. A centralised integrated library system is what is desirable for each university in the Indian context.

Suitable university and college library standards should be evolved and implemented.

Paucity of finance necessitates programmes of library cooperation and resource sharing being worked out and implemented.

The INFLIBNET Project of the U G C which seeks to promote resource sharing should be seriously pursued.

Academic programmes in universities and colleges should be so conceived and implemented as to make library use by students indispensable.

## History and Structure of University Education

A brief account of the history and structure of University education in India is necessary for a proper understanding of the set up of library facilities meant for supporting it. The year 1887 marks the beginning of modern university education in India, for it was in that year that the first three universities were started. They were (1) the University of Bombay (2) the University of Calcutta and (3) the University of Madras. They were intended as affiliating universities with the responsibility of prescribing the syllabi for the courses offered by the then existing colleges located in their respective jurisdictions and for conducting examinations for the students enrolled in them. They had no teaching or research functions of their own. The total number of universities existing before 1947, the year of independence, was only 16. This has now swelled to 189 which include, apart from the conventional universities, institutions deemed as universities (Hereafter referred to as Deemed universities), institutions of national importance and universities specialising in subjects such as Agriculture, Medical Science, Science Engineering and Technology, etc. In this paper the term 'University' includes all these.

Table showing number of universities

Before	1990	1991-47	1948-49	1950-59	1960-69	1870-79
	5	26	8	24	45	31
	1980-89	1991-92				
	46	4		Total	189	
					=====	

The universities can be divided in to three types on the basis of their structure and functions. The large majority of them are of the affiliating type. They affiliate to themselves the colleges within their specified area, lay down syllabi for the various courses and conduct examinations. They exercise general academic supervision over the colleges. They also offer post graduate teaching and research programmes in their own departments. The second type comprises unitary universities which are solely concerned with teaching and research and have no colleges under them. In the third type are universities which, in addition to teaching and research responsibilities, have constituent colleges over which they have both academic and administrative control. They may be called federal universities.

There are four universities exclusively meant for women.

Distance education facilities are becoming increasingly popular in India. Several of the conventional universities offer correspondence courses. There are also four open universities specially established for this purpose

#### Colleges

It can be seen from the account given above that students of university education in India include those enrolled in the affiliated/constituent colleges of the universities as well as in the departments of the universities. Of these the former forms the dominant group constituting more than 95% of the total students of higher education. There are as many as 7121 affiliated and constituent colleges which together enrol 44,25000 students for graduate, post graduate and research degrees and diplomas and employ 2,62000 teachers. Therefore the standard

~~of higher education is largely that set by the colleges and~~

hence, libraries are as important in the colleges as in the universities.

#### University Grants Commission (U G C)

The U G C was set up in 1953 by the Central Government and was given statutory status in 1956. Its name is suggestive of its role as a body disbursing grants to the universities. While this continues to be its chief function it is empowered to take all necessary steps for the promotion and coordination of university education and for the determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in universities. Thus the policies and programmes of higher education in India have been largely directed by the U G C since its inception. While it is made responsible for the entire financing of the central universities, ie. universities directly run by the central government, its financial support to the state universities is by way of supplementing the grants made available to them by the respective state governments.

#### Education Commissions

The Universities Commission of 1902, the University Education Commission of 1948 (Radhakrishnan Commission) and the Education Commission of 1966 (Kothari Commission) studied various aspects of university education in India and made appropriate recommendations for strengthening its base with a view to improving standards. The role of libraries in this respect and the need for developing them suitably have been stressed in the reports of all these commissions.

#### University Libraries

In the case of the early universities, libraries were started long after the starting of the universities themselves.



This is because they had no teaching and research functions that needed library support. But after the enactment of the Indian University Act of 1904 which wanted the universities to assume direct teaching and research functions, it became necessary for libraries to be established in the universities. Even so, few libraries can claim to have been started simultaneously with their universities and there was always an interval between the origin of a university and of its library. Any instance of a University library being planned and developed before the establishment of the University and the starting of its academic and research programmes can hardly be found. This is indicative of a general lack of appreciation of the importance of the library in University education. Also the departments which were established had their own small book collections to depend on.

#### Budget

The sources of income for a state university library are (1) the grants received from its parent university and (2) developmental grants received from the central government through the U G C under each Five Year Plan. As far as Central universities are concerned, the entire financial support is provided by the U G C. The Central University libraries are financially in a better position than the state university libraries. The annual budget of the libraries of the existing 189 universities shows wide variation. It ranges from as low as Rs.56000 in the case of Gujarat Agricultural university to as high as Rs.115,00000 in the case of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. But this comparison is not quite rational as the universities widely vary in respect of their age, size, subject, student enrolment and other relevant factors which have implications for the library.

recommended by different bodies. According to the university Education Commission, 1948, it should be worked out on the basis of Rs.40 per student. The library committee of the U G C, 1959 (Ranganathan Committee) has recommended Rs.15 per student and Rs.200 per teacher. The norm according to the Kothari Commission, 1966 is Rs.25 per student and Rs.300 per teacher or 6.5 to 10% of the total university budget depending on the state of development of the library. Given the steep rise in the cost of books and journals the per capita rate ought to be much higher now, but library expenditure even now is much less than the rates suggested almost three decades ago in the large majority of universities. It is better to work out library budget as a percentage of the total university budget because, corresponding to the natural enhancement of the latter from year to year, the library budget is also bound to go up as it should. The Kothari Commission norm of 6.5 to 10% of the total university budget is still an elusive target for most universities.

#### Book Stock

The size of the book stock ranges from less than 10000 in the case of new and small universities to 600000 or more in the case of old and big universities. The Delhi University started in 1922 stands first in this regard with a book stock of 11,49000. The book stocks of different universities include conventional books, bound periodicals, reports, patents, standards, theses, microfilms, micro fiche, micro cards manuscripts etc in varying numbers.

The number of books added per year ranges from 200 to 12000.

**All the universities subscribe for periodicals, both**

Indian and foreign. Some also receive them gratis and in exchange of their own publication. There is wide variation in the number of journals received by different libraries.

A comparative resources position of different libraries on a reasonably comparable category basis is shown in the following table. The figures relate to the years 1988-89 1989-90 or 1990-91 as given in universities Hand book 1992.

Category	No. of Unive- rsities	Budget range	Collection range	Range of Annual additions	Range of No. of journals
Started before 1900	5	Rs.12,50,000- 23,78,000	1,50,000- 6,48,000	5,193- 11,425	500- 2025
1990-1947	26	1,00,000- 43,38,000	40,000- 11,49,000	1,500- 13,969.	100-2145
1948-49	8	14,00,000- 31,00,000	209,217- 400000	2923- 3253	500-1200
1950-59	24	2,60,000- 115,00000	48000- 5,49,329	640- 7502	225-2400
1960-69	45	60,000- 48,00000	31000- 2,80,000	584- 9790	202-1340
1970 -79	31	1,50,000- 65,50000	52,000- 1,70,527	3051- 12,075	155-1451
1980-89	46	100000- 19,50,000	22,000- 1,55,000	200- 2154	48-800
1990-92	4	Details not available			
Agriculture/ Veterinary Science/ Fisheries/ Forestry Universities	31	250,000- 294,1000	20,892 - 600000	1977- 6403	180-1948
Medical Sciences	7	10,00000 - 30,00000	12,000 - 110,0389	640- 1000	200-380
Engineering/ Science/ Technology	12	50,0000 - 284861	500000 - 11500000	2000 - 4558	305-2300
Others	19	56000 - 240000	23186 - 150000	445 - 5511	100-1700

arable university libraries shows that there is no rational policy followed in the funding of the libraries with the result that the growth of libraries is not uniform. Also, except in a few cases the budget does not take into account the steep rise in the cost of books and journals, increased and diversified needs of universities, increased enrolment of students and other such relevant factors. The funding is haphazard in that if it is enhanced in one year, it may be static in another year and may even go down in a subsequent year. No rational development policy for the libraries is possible in such a situation. The libraries of the subject universities especially those of the Indian Institutes of Technology are more advantageously placed in this respect. Many libraries are forced to cut down the number of periodicals subscribed for, from year to year.

#### Organisation of the Book Collection

The book collection has been classified and catalogued in all the libraries although in some there is considerable backlog. The classification schemes adopted are the Dewey Decimal classification, Colon Classification and the universal decimal classification. The classified catalogue code of Ranganathan and A A C R (2) are the catalogue codes generally followed.

#### Services

Loan of books and consultation of books within the library premises are services provided by all libraries. Almost all libraries also provide reprographic services of which Xeroxing facilities are the most common. There are a few libraries which provide documentation services in the form of C A S, SDI and the compilation of ad-hoc bibliographies. These documentation services are oriented to the requirements of the research scholars of the universities concerned.

The use of a university library is generally restricted to the teachers and students of the university departments and of the affiliated/constituent colleges. But there are a few libraries which extend their services to the public also on certain conditions. This is particularly helpful to those who seek to improve their qualification by taking advantage of distance education facilities.

#### Departmental Libraries

The library set up in each university can be broadly divided into three categories. One is, a Central library for the whole university with provision for the long term loan of a specified number of constantly required books to each department. In the second category there is a Central library and there are also departmental libraries with all the libraries and the entire library staff under the administrative control of the university librarian. A third set up is of extreme decentralisation in that the central library and the departmental libraries are independent parallel units with no coordination of any kind. This pattern, apart from being uneconomical because of the duplication of costly materials that it entails, also acts as a disincentive for the students to visit the central library and get exposed to a wide variety of books. What is desirable and feasible for a country like India with severe financial constraints is to have a well stocked central library with provision for long term loan of books to the departments. The justification for independent departmental libraries is also highly weakened by their ill-organised condition wherever they exist.

#### Library Personnel

The Calcutta University Commission (1917-19) was the first to make the recommendation that the University should have the services of a librarian who should have the salary

~~and status of a Professor and should be a member of the Academic~~

Council. The University Education Commission observed that the library should have adequate and well qualified staff in different grades headed by a librarian of the Calibre of a University Professor who has specialised in Library Science. Very detailed recommendation regarding library staff are available in the report of the Library Committee of the U G C. The Committee recommended that the professional staff of libraries should have parity with the academic staff in respect of salary and status. It also prescribed a staff formula for working out the staff strength of various categories in a library

The present position is that while some libraries are headed by librarians of professorial status, some are headed by persons in lower grades. The obsolete tradition of honorary librarian holding charge of libraries is still surviving in a few universities.

#### Library Committee

Most of the university libraries have library committees. Some have a statutory basis and some are constituted through executive orders. There are advisory as well as executive committees. The Vice Chancellor is usually the Chairman and the librarian the member secretary. The Committee usually concerns itself with policy and developmental matters.

#### The Physical Plant

Almost all the university libraries except the very new ones have their own buildings, thanks to the grants made available for the purpose by the U G C from its very inception. Although spacious, some of them suffer from functional defects due to lack of adequate consultation with librarians in the planning and designing of library buildings. There is increasing realisation of the fact that the physical atmosphere of the library made

up of the building, furniture, lighting and other accessories should be attractive and conducive to quiet and serious study.

### College Libraries

As already mentioned the students of the colleges affiliated to the universities constitute the large majority of the students of higher education in India and therefore should have the benefit of adequate library facilities. Each college has its own library, but there are various factors adversely effecting its effectiveness and usefulness. Some of these are inadequate financial support, inadequate staffing, lack of scientific organisation, poor physical facilities and a general apathy to the library.

The college libraries are also eligible for financial assistance from the U G C for buildings, staff and collection development.

### Modernisation of Library operations and services

The idea of computerisation of library operations and services, although much talked about, is yet to become a reality. There are only a very few libraries which have gone in for computerisation. The main bottleneck is lack of trained staff. But efforts are now afoot for imparting training through refresher courses and other programmes and there is increasing realisation that this is something that cannot be put off indefinitely.

### U G C Library Committee

The appointment of a library committee by the UGC in 1957 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan is an important landmark in the history of university libraries in India. The Committee studied in depth all aspects of university and college libraries and formulated comprehensive

~~recommendations relating to each aspect. These recommendations~~  
have largely directed the UGC's policy towards library development. They have also influenced in some measure the policy of individual universities to their libraries.

### Library Cooperation

Library cooperation and resource sharing as practised in the developed countries is practically non-existent in India. Inter-library loan, wherever practised, is more on the basis of bilateral understanding and contacts between individual libraries than as part of a formal frame work. One serious hurdle to inter-library loan is the absence of a Union Catalogue of books. There are union catalogues of scientific serials and also of social science periodicals and serials, but they are not up to date. Now that xerox facilities are available in most libraries, it is not difficult to obtain copies of required materials.

A recent development is the starting of computerised Information Centres by the U G C. The one for science is located at the Indian Institute of Science , Bangalore. It is called the National Information Science Centre and maintains user profiles of scientists and provides current awareness and SDI services. A second centre for Library Sciences, Education and Womens' Studies and a third one for social sciences have been set of in the S.N.D.T Womens' University, Bombay and M.S University of Baroda, respectively. These services generate extensive demands for the original documents and for this purpose the periodicals collections of the universities concerned, are substantially augmented with U G C aid.



## Information and Library Net Work (INFLIBNET)

INFLIBNET is a major project which is under the active consideration of the UGC for being implemented during the Eighth plan period. This will be a computer-communication net work linking libraries and information centres in universities, deemed universities, institutions of national importance, UGC information centres, R & D institutions and colleges with the primary objective of modernising the operations of these libraries and making their resources known and accessible to each other. This will, no doubt, facilitate the sharing of the available national library resources for common benefit.

### Conclusion

University libraries in India have undoubtedly made vast strides of progress since independence. But the progress has not been uniform and according to a rational plan. The growth has been somewhat jerky because of the vagaries of financial support from year to year. Appropriate university and college library standards in respect of all the basic ingredients of a sound library programme to suit the modern context should be evolved and adhered to. Above all, the importance of the library in university education should be recognised and all academic programmes should be so conceived and implemented as to make library use indispensable.

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Division: GENERAL RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Section/RT: PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES

106-PAR(WS)-5-E

Joint Meeting with:

WORKSHOP THEME (IF APPLICABLE):

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE SAUSAD

LIBRARY AND REFERENCE, RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION  
SERVICES TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN INDIA

by Shri G.C. Malhotra, Director IARRDIS, Lok Sabha, New Delhi,  
India

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127

**LIBRARY, REFERENCE, RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION AND  
INFORMATION SERVICE TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

by **G. C. MALHOTRA,**  
Director (LARRDIS).  
Lok Sabha Sectt.

Abstract

The paper seeks to analyse the information requirements of legislators in general, with particular reference to that of the members of the Indian Parliament. After discussing the importance of objective information for legislators for their effective functioning, the paper delves deep into the information explosion which we are witnessing today, and how a modern day Parliamentary library has to function in the emerging scenario.

Coming specifically to the Indian context, the paper discusses the evolution of the Parliament Library. The ever-growing information demands of members are dealt with in the context of the expansion of library facilities. It narrates in detail the varied activities of the Library, Reference and Research Services and various facilities extended to members. Emphasis is also laid on the modernisation programme. Computerisation, microfilming, audio-video library, linkage of Parliament Library with other legislative and parliamentary libraries in India and abroad are also discussed at length.

INTRODUCTION

Parliament is the single most important representative institution in any country which has opted for a parliamentary democratic polity. It is the symbol of the varied hopes and aspirations of the

people. It is the supreme legislative and deliberative organ in such a political system. This, being so, it is only natural that the legislators raise here issues which have a vital bearing on the state of the nation political, economic and social. The international situation also comes up for discussion in the House from time to time.

With the rapid technological and scientific developments greatly influencing, nay revolutionising every sphere of human activity, the role and functions of the legislatures have also multiplied manifold. Apart from their conventional law-making function, today's legislatures, particularly those at the national level, have to grapple with newer problems and changing situations.

### PARLIAMENTARIANS AND INFORMATION

Members of Legislatures, in their capacity as the elected representatives of the people, are invariably conscious of the onerous responsibility of living upto the expectations of their electors. It is perhaps no easy task to keep abreast of all developments taking place all around in order to meet the demands of a parliamentary life. If a member has to play an active and effective role in parliamentary

proceedings - be it during Question time, discussions on various issues or the legislative business - he has to be well-versed with the latest developments on a wide variety of subjects. In short, he is in constant need of information. Is it, that information as such as scarce? Far from it. The problem rather is that there is too much of it from too many sources. There is proliferation of books, journals, newspapers and reports and the parliamentarians have an access to this vast material at a variety of sources. For example, Ministries and Departments of Government, Public Sector Undertakings and other official agencies bring out regularly mass of literature highlighting their activities, achievements and future plans. Though all this literature is prepared by experts in their respective fields, some tilt or bias in their presentation cannot be avoided. Then of course there is the mass media - newspapers, radio, films, television etc. - which also contributes to the dissemination of information. Besides, various interest groups and lobbyists vie with each other to reach out to members through written word or in person with a view to stressing their own viewpoints on issues and problems concerning them. In this case too, a slant in presentation cannot be ruled out.

It might thus be seen that the problem with us, in the Parliamentary context, is not of the

non-availability of information but its proper organisation and management followed by selective dissemination to parliamentarians who are hard pressed for time. As we all are aware, their parliamentary activities are not confined to attending Parliament sessions alone. They are simultaneously required to participate in committee meetings, attend to their constituency problems and as partymen to attend party deliberations as well. Whatever the nature of their engagement, they are always in need of one kind of information or other in order to develop an argument during a debate, ask a supplementary and even demolish an official claim. Such information may be required by them quite often in the House itself or in the Committee or sometimes even on their breakfast table for Party or Constituency work. They hardly have the time to spend hours in the Library or even cursorily glance through the mass of literature piling up on their desks to search and locate the right information required at a given point of time. They need carefully sifted and objectively analysed information, tailored to meet their specific requirements in the form of brief notes, statements, tables, statistical charts and the like. Time, of course, is of essence and if the required information is not made available to them within the stipulated time, the whole exercise may be infructuous.

## **ADVANCES IN INFORMATION SYSTEM AND CHANGING ROLES OF LIBRARIES**

Let us now look at the information system from a different angle. The twentieth century has witnessed many significant developments in the field of science and technology. These revolutionary changes have had a considerable impact on the varied needs of human activity such as education, research, information etc., including the institution of Library which is the storehouse of wisdom.

The spectacular advancements in information and communication techniques have radically changed the conventional function of a Library. The new information demands of users have to be met by several activities based on documentation, information, analysis, consolidation and repackaging, computer based information system etc. The changes in the concept of the Information System are analogous to that of Solar System. The Greco-Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy had maintained that earth was at the centre of the universe with the Sun and other heavenly bodies revolving round it. Centuries later, the Polish astronomer, Copernicus established that the Sun was at the centre of the system with the earth revolving round it. In



our context, it is the rapidly changing rôles of the Library that has made the eminent Information Scientist Robert S. Taylor to remark that "In a metaphorical sense, we are moving from a Ptolemaic world with the Library at the Centre and information revolving round it to a Copernican one with information at the centre and Library as one of its planets". One may even venture to say that a modern day Library is verily a repository of the "intellectual technology" of a nation.

No man is an island by himself. Today more than ever before, he is inter-dependent on fellow beings. This symbiotic relationship is perhaps best exemplified in the interaction between the people and their elected representatives. Together, they endeavour towards achieving the cherished goal of a welfare society. For this venture, information is crucial. This being so, it is imperative that the elected representatives should receive on a continuous basis factual information on socio-economic problems, national and international political developments and scientific and technological advancement. Needless to say, this type of a specialised service can be provided only by a self-contained organisation or set-up within the Parliament itself.

## PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES

The need for establishing and developing an independent and objective reservoir of information within the Legislature itself on which legislators, can freely bank upon, has, therefore, been long recognised the world over. Legislatures in many democratic countries - big or small - have developed their own library, reference and research services. Their range depends upon the available resources and the size of the legislature. Popularly known as the LRS (Legislative Reference Service) different Legislatures have adopted slightly varied nomenclatures to meet specific requirements.

An efficient LRS postulates a well-stocked and well-equipped library manned by highly experienced and trained staff fully geared to meet multifarious information demands from legislators. LRS should also be in a position to identify, in advance, important issues and subjects likely to come up before the Legislatures and be ready with well-documented brochures, backgrounders, information bulletins, bibliographies on those subjects for free distribution to legislators even before they ask for them. Besides

enabling the Members of Parliament to fulfil their parliamentary duties, these facilities offset at least partly the information advantage enjoyed by the executive power over the legislative power.

### PARLIAMENT LIBRARY IN INDIA

Indian Parliament too has been conscious of this vital need of its members right from the beginning. The seeds of the present-day Parliament Library were sown well before our independence in 1947, as early as in 1921 during the Central Legislative Assembly days. It is thus just over seventy years old as compared to the US Congress Library which is almost 200 years old and the British House of Commons Library over 170 years. Though small in size initially, it was set-up with the express purpose of providing information to the members of the Central Legislative Assembly. Upto the independence of the country, there was a slow but steady increase in the collections of the Library. However, immediately after independence, with the Constituent Assembly involved in the drafting of the Constitution, there was a considerable growth in its collections.

The year 1950, when we adopted the Republican Constitution providing for a bicameral Parliament

consisting of a total of 750 members, saw the beginning of a systematic expansion of Parliament Library's collection, both quantitatively and qualitatively. A humble beginning was also made by setting up a Members' Reference Service within the newly set-up Research and Reference Branch which initially functioned independent of the Parliament Library. Faced with the increasing demands of a nascent democracy, concerted efforts were made during the period 1950-55 to further consolidate the Library by increasing the purchase of books and entering into exchange arrangements with various institutions and organisations in India and abroad. Soon, our Parliament Library became a repository Library for the publications of U.N. and its all allied agencies and also started receiving the Command Papers of U.K. and Government Publications from U.S.A. and several other countries. Naturally, this expansion necessitated the reorganisation of the Library in the year 1956, then 1966 and again in December, 1974 with a view to further strengthening various services extended to members.

#### LARRDIS

Over the past four decades, the Library as well as Research and Reference Service for members have gradually developed into what is now known as the

integrated Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service, more familiar by its acronym LARRDIS. The present set up and nomenclature is the result of major functional reorganisation of the Secretariats of the two Houses of Parliament brought about during 1974-75. LARRDIS though administratively under the Lok Sabha Secretariat, caters to all the information requirements of members of both Houses of Parliament - Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. With the strength of nearly 200 of researchers, professional and secretarial staff, the LARRDIS is housed in the Parliament building itself and is spread over all the four floors with the major collections in first floor.

As its name suggests, LARRDIS today functionally provides Library, Reference, Research, Documentation and Information services to the members of Parliament.

### LIBRARY SERVICE

Parliament Library presently has holdings of about one million volumes of books, debates of Indian Parliament, State Legislatures of India and foreign Parliaments, reports of Central and State Governments and United Nations and its Agencies, Gazettes of Central and State Governments and other documents, including periodicals and publications

brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. With a budget of Rs. 1.2 million it is one of the finest and richest repositories in the country. Presently, it receives 195 newspapers from different parts of the country and the world. Of these, 181 newspapers are from India itself. There are 35 English dailies, 40 in Hindi and 106 in different regional languages of India. Foreign newspapers are received from U.K., U.S.A., Pakistan, China, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Malaysia and Nepal. Parliament Library also receives regularly 842 periodicals - 579 published in India and 263 from abroad. Of the 263 foreign periodicals, the UN and its Agencies account for 59 and the rest are from different countries. As for the 579 Indian periodicals, 403 are in English, 94 in Hindi and the rest 82 in various regional languages.

Acquisition:

We lay utmost emphasis on the process of acquisition. Books and publications are selected from out of the entire field of human activity relating to almost all subjects, the only exception being books on advanced technical knowledge, pure sciences and light fiction. Actually, the legislative requirements of

members are particularly kept in view while choosing the books.

Parliament Library acquires most of the books through purchase from approved booksellers who regularly supply the latest books on an approval basis. The books are carefully examined at different stages with special reference to the needs of the Parliament Library and then selected for acquisition. In addition to this regular supply, the staff in the Acquisition Section consults the catalogues, publisher's announcements, book reviews appearing in various newspapers and periodicals, lists of additions received from various other Libraries and makes periodic visits to the local booksellers for the purpose of selection and acquisition of books for the Parliament Library. On another plane, under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, all State Governments are expected to acquire and send a copy of all publications, printed in their State, free of cost to the Parliament Library. Books are also received on complimentary basis from Members of Parliament and others. Books presented by foreign Parliaments are also added to the collections.

Parliament Library has extensive exchange arrangements with 124 governmental and non-governmental institutions in India and 73 institutions abroad which

supply their publications in exchange for publications brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. It is also a depository Library for all unrestricted publications of the United Nations and its allied agencies.

     All Ministries and Departments of the Government of India including their attached and subordinate offices also supply copies of their publications, reports etc. free of cost to Parliament Library. Copies of the Gazettes, Budgets and reports published by State Governments are also received and added to the holdings of the Parliament Library.

#### Classification

Books and other publications are classified and catalogued according to the Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme (20th Edition) and Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (2nd Edition). The Library of Congress List of Subject Headings (12th Edition) is adopted for assigning Key words to the publications.

#### Dissemination

How do we let members and others know of latest additions to the Parliament Library? This function is primarily done through a monthly publication "Parlia-



ment Library Bulletin" which is brought out by the Library Division. Latest arrivals are also put on display at the 'New Arrivals' Counters. From time to time, book exhibitions are organised on various themes to mark specific occasions. The issue of books and other publications to members is regulated by the Parliament Library Rules framed on the recommendations the Library Committee. Comfortable study rooms are provided in the Library for serious study of members.

#### Special Collections

Parliament Library possesses a rich collection of rare and art books. The earliest printed books available in the Library date back to 1671. Books on art, painting, sculpture and architecture cover a broad canvas of Indian history depicting different stages in its evolution. These include paintings of various schools of art such as the Mughal, Rajput, Kangra, Garhwal etc. The foreign art collections comprise of the creations of celebrated artists like Michael Angelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Rapheal as also works of Chinese and Japanese Art, Russian, German, French, American and Arabian paintings. The Library also has two original calligraphed copies of the Constitution of India (in Hindi and English) as adopt-

ed by Constituent Assembly and signed by its Members. The copies were calligraphed by Shri Nand Lal Bose, the renowned artist from Shantiniketan. We are presently exploring ways and means for the long-term preservation of these previous documents for the benefit of posterity.

As a mark of respect to the memory of Mahatama Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, and to make available all the works by and on the Mahatama at one place, there is separate Section called Gandhiana. The Section contains about 1665 books in Hindi, English and several other Indian regional languages. Similarly, Parliament Library also have a separate section, exclusively devoted to the first Prime Minister and Architect of modern India, Jawaharlal Nehru, which contains books on and by Nehru, all located at one place.

#### Regional Languages Collection

The Parliament, in a way is the microcosm of the nation itself. Ours is a nation which abounds in diversity based on several factors, the most prominent among them being the languages. Each one of our major languages is rich in its own way with its distinctive literature. Together, these languages add to the

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richness of our literary heritage. Keeping this in mind, Parliament Library has also laid emphasis on developing its Indian Regional Languages Collections. A separate Wing containing 52,875 holdings in various Indian languages has been carved out in the Library.

#### Library Committee

A Library Committee is constituted every year by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, to advise him on all matters concerning the development of the Parliament Library. The committee consists of six members from Lok Sabha and three from Rajya Sabha, nominated by the Presiding Officers of the respective Houses. The Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha is the ex-officio Chairman of the Library Committee.

#### COMPUTERISED INFORMATION SERVICE

Information handling has essentially three aspects: collection, storing and retrieval. As the quantum of knowledge grows, the number of information records also correspondingly increases. Handling of this vast magnitude of information with conventional manual methods, naturally, has proved problematic. In modern times, information scientists have embarked upon the development of a new information technology.

Today, all around the world, computers are being used in Library housekeeping functions like acquisition, cataloguing, circulation control, serials control, information storage, retrieval, content analysis and dissemination.

For the purpose of introducing automation in the Parliament Library, the Computer-based information retrieval system named PARLIS (Parliament Library Information System) was started in December, 1985 with the help of the National Informatics Centre (NIC). Presently, the Computer Centre has four PC-386, two PC-286 and two PC-XT with a number of terminals and printers being used for storage and retrieval of data. Two PCs located in the Computer Centre are connected with main Super Computer NEC S-1000 located at the premises of the NIC in Lodhi Complex, about six kms away from Parliament House.

PARLIS was designed within the Library for the benefit of Members of Parliament. It is a database of subject indexed references to parliamentary information. The database is created by the Library's Computer Centre. The data so far stored for on-line retrieval relates to subject index references of select questions and answers and various other kinds of business, including Government and Private Members

Bills in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from 1985 onwards; discussions in the Constituent Assembly on different articles and schedules of the Constitution of India; decisions and observations from the Chair from 1952; the reports of the Parliamentary Committees such as the Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee, Public Undertakings Committee, etc.; the profiles of members of eighth, Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabhas and of Rajya Sabha from 1986 onwards; the socio-economic background of Members of First to Tenth Lok Sabhas; details of Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections from 1952 onwards, discussions on Five-Year Plans in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from 1951; Council of Ministers-Ministry-wise and name-wise from 1947. etc. Also available for on-line retrieval are some of the statistical data on different areas of economy such as the country's Growth Rate, its foreign trade, Plan Outlays for public Sector, Per Capita Net Domestic Product, Per Capita Plan Outlay, Fertilizer Production, Imports and Consumption, Number of Job Seekers, Registered with Employment Exchanges, Power Generation, performance of Railways etc.

Over the years, considerable quantum of work has been undertaken by the Computer Centre. Thus, year-wise the number of records of parliamentary questions fed into the computer and available for on-line retrieval was 8,633 in 1987; 12,758 in 1988; 7,587 in

1987; 7,416 in 1990; and 10,687 in 1991. In the case of records of parliamentary debates, the figures were 282, 758, 670, 1,371 and 1,705 for the year 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991 respectively. The records of the number of Parliamentary bills for the years 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991 were 249, 289, 160, 220 and 427 respectively.

It may thus be seen that during the last about five years our Computer system has travelled a long way. The 27th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which was held in New Delhi in September 1991 provided an opportunity to PARLIS and NIC to extend a variety of information to the Delegates and others. For efficient storage and retrieval of information, a network was created by linking the Computer Centre at the Conference Venue (Ashok Hotel) to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Parliament Library and the Satellite based NICNET. The computer stored information regarding the countries represented, bio-data of Delegates, their arrival and departure details, tour programmes, Conference schedules, spouses programmes and a vast array of information about Indian economy, and other tourist information.

Our modernisation efforts have recently got a real thrust under the dynamic leadership of the present Speaker, Shri Shivraj V. Patil. He has been

taking a keen personal interest in all aspects of the modernisation programme. In line with his vision to further streamline computerisation of various services in the Lok Sabha Secretariat, an Experts Committee headed by Shri C.K. Jain, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha was set up recently. A report prepared by its Sub-Committee identifying the relevant areas for computerisation and suggesting an integrated scheme for implementation was adopted by the Experts Committee. After considering the report, the Speaker, Lok Sabha has directed that activities of Question Branch, Library, Administration, Reporting Branch and Parliamentary Committees may be computerised in the first phase. While the work of the Reporting Service and Parliamentary Committees is being entrusted to the Computer Maintenance Corporation (CMC), the rest of the work is being undertaken by the NIC.

#### Information Linkage

The NIC has already provided us the facilities of NICMAIL available on NICNET for efficient exchange of information. A protected mailbox with address Lokmail has already been given to the Computer Centre. Our Secretariat can now exchange messages between all the District Headquarters and sites operative under NICNET. The Computer Centre has already been linked

with the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Bhopal, through NICNET.

### MICROFILMING UNIT

Parliament Library has a large collection of debates, magazines, reports and other rare publications which are required to be preserved for reference over long period. In order to preserve these resources and to effectively utilise the existing space, shortage of which is now being seriously felt, a Microfilming Unit was set up in 1986 in Parliament Library. The Unit is at present equipped with most modern Microfilmers, Cameras, processors, duplicators and microfilming readers-cum-printers. There is Computerised Assisted Retrieval (CAR) system for retrieving of microfilmed documents. Over six lakh documents have already been microfilmed by the Unit since its inception. Duplicate copies of the microfilm rolls of debates of Central Legislative Assembly, Council of States, Constituent Assembly, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are now kept in Library (Ground Floor) for viewing on the microfilm reader by members.



## **AUDIO-VISUAL UNIT**

Computers, films, videos etc are increasingly becoming normal elements of our Library culture and their products contribute to our knowledge and general worldview. Video News Magazines covering important national and inter-national events in different areas of politics, economics, law etc., are brought out regularly by various organisations and agencies. Taking into consideration the information value of such audio-visual magazines, Parliament Library has set up during the beginning of this year, an Audio-Visual Unit for use and reference by members of Parliament. Language learning courses also form the integral part of the audio-visual collection.

Telecasting of parliamentary proceedings has become a reality now in our country with the Doordarshan bringing various parliamentary activities such as President's Address to Members of both the Houses of Parliament, presentation of General Budget and Railway Budget, Question Hour, discussion on Demands for Grants of various Ministries etc., to the millions of households through the small screen. Keeping in view the archival value of these recordings for future parliamentarians, the Press, scholars and academicians we have decided to keep a video copy of each of these

proceedings in our Audio-Visual Unit. There are also proposals to acquire Video copies of the proceedings of the Parliaments of other countries too in exchange for the cassettes produced by us.

### MEMBERS' REFERENCE SERVICE

This is perhaps one Service which is the most sought after by members, especially during Session days. It supplies on demand factual and objective information to members of Parliament, Presiding Officers and Committees on subjects of economic, political. Members who need the information, approach the Reference Desk in the Library (Ground Floor) and fill in the requisition slip indicating subject of the reference, date and time by which it is required. The Service is manned by Reference Officers who attend to Members' reference broadly on the subject areas allotted to them. In case where information is readily available in published documents it is given on the spot proverbially right from the tap. In other cases, the relevant information, bibliographical data or statistics is culled out from various authentic sources, arranged, compiled, edited and passed on the Members. Sometimes, in response to Members' requests factual notes and write ups are also prepared and supplied. In all cases, information is tailored to

the requirements of Members and given within the time stipulated by them which very often is quite challenging.

A comparative study undertaken by us shows that during the Eighth Lok Sabha (1984-89), 40 percent references were made the same day, 4 percent required within 2-3 days, 12 percent within 4-7 days and only 3 percent for more than seven days. The corresponding figures were 50 percent, 45 percent, 4 percent and 1 percent for the Ninth Lok Sabha (1989-91) and 48 percent, 42 percent, 10 percent and 2 percent for the first year of the Tenth Lok Sabha (July 1991 to 15 July, 1992).

The scope of material to be collected in response to members' references is normally limited to subjects connected with the immediate business before the two Houses of Parliament. But in actual practice, this is not so. The Members demand information on virtually anything and everything, thus keeping the staff on their toes all the time.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the Members' Reference Service has become quite popular over the years. The popularity of this Service can be gauged from the marked increase in the number of references received and handled by the Service during the past

several years. As against 700 references handled in 1970, 3,627 references were disposed of during the year 1980. Their figure was all time high at 5,167 in 1990. However there was a slight decline in 1991 when their number was 4,683. But this number seems to be rising again in 1992 which can be attributable to the increased participating of Members in the debates of the two Houses because of telecasting of its proceedings which began on 2.12.91. An idea of this can be had from the following analysis based on the figures collected during the comparable period of 1981-1991. During the Sixth Session of the Ninth Lok Sabha (27.12.90 - 11.1.91), in all 341 references were received with the average per day being 34. The corresponding figures were 355 and 29 for the Seventh Session of the Ninth Lok Sabha (21.2.91 - 12.3.91) and 2,263 and 43, respectively for the First Session of the Tenth Lok Sabha (9.7.91-18.9.91). With telecasting of parliamentary proceedings with effect from 2.12.91, there has been a perceptible increase in the number of references received from members. Thus, during the Second Session of the Tenth Lok Sabha (20.11.91-21.12.91), in all 1,037 references were received with the average per day being 47. The corresponding figures were 2,253 and 46 for the Third Session of Tenth Lok Sabha (20.2.92-12.5.92) and 294 and 49, respectively for the fourth Session of Tenth

Lok Sabha (from 8.7.92 to 15.7.92). By and large members have been appreciative of the quality of the material supplied in response to reference within the limited time but there is of course always scope for further improvement.

#### Anticipatory Reference Notes

While the Officers and Staff of the Reference Service are hard pressed for timely disposal of references especially when the Parliament is in Session, they get some breathing time during the inter-Session days. This time is devoted on the preparation of Background Notes, Information Bulletins and Fact-Sheets on subjects of contemporary interest and on topics which are likely to come up for legislation or discussion through other devices during the forthcoming session. This reference work is done in anticipation of the reference requirement of the Members of the two Houses and becomes very handy and useful for the Members. Some of the background Notes and Information Bulletins prepared recently include "Right to Information"; "Reservations for Backward Classes"; "Statehood for Delhi"; "Technical Education in India"; "Role of Non-Resident Indians in Economic Development"; "Environment Protection"; "Central Plan Assistance to States"; "Child Labour and Status of

Girl Child"; "Anatomy of Stock Market Scam"; "National Policy on Education: Evolution and Reconstruction"; "Earth Summit : An Overview"; "Banking in India"; "Independence of Soviet Republics and formation of Commonwealth of Independent State"; "English Schedule of Constitution: Inclusion of some more Languages"; "Public Distribution System"; "Current Price Situation"; "Tourism Promotion: Policy and prospects"; "Indian Economy in 1991-92: Performance and prospects"; "Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and Dunkel's proposals"; "Eighth Five Year Plan: Objectives, Thrust and Micro Dimensions"; "Railway Budget 92-93 -An Appraisal"; Union Budget 92-93 - An Appraisal".

#### Study Boxes

Besides preparation of anticipatory reference notes, there is system of making Study Boxes on subjects of topical interest. Each of these boxes contain the relevant literature such as books, reports and articles etc. These boxes are placed in the Members' Reading Room in the Parliament Library for reference and consultation by members at their convenience.

## DOCUMENTATION SERVICE

One of the principal adjuncts of a Library is the Documentation Service. In Parliament Library, it was started in 1975. It indexes and prepares annotations of important books, reports and articles appearing in newspapers and periodicals received in the Parliament Library. The indexes and annotations prepared during a particular fortnight are classified and published in the form of an indexing periodical entitled Parliamentary Documentation. These are also fed into the Computer to facilitate searches. This data base, which is retrievable authorwise and subjectwise, serves as an invaluable aid for future research and reference activity. It also enables preparation of select documentation lists for use and reference of members.

## PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

The Press Clipping Service was started on a modest scale in the year 1956 with the limited objective of speedy disposal of references from members on current subject. The scope of the service has considerably increased over the years and accordingly it is now organised more methodically to serve as an essential and basic aid for Parliament research and

reference work. All important news and views, which include editorial comments and articles from nine Hindi and nineteen English dailies are clipped and maintained in separate folders in accordance with a specially devised classification scheme. Press Information Bureau (PIB) releases, daily digest of news and views on matters of topical interest, etc., are also scrutinised for clipping purposes. Besides, the service maintains up-to-date sets of the releases of the Indian News and Feature Alliance (INFA). Weeding out operation is regularly carried out to release stacking space for more recent additions of news items. Important clippings of lasting value and interest, particularly, those having a bearing on constitutional, parliamentary and legal subjects are, however, retained permanently.

#### REPROGRAPHY SERVICE

The Reprography Unit which was set up in the year 1975, meets the urgent requirements of members for photocopying of important press clippings, parliamentary questions and answers, articles from periodicals and newspapers and extracts from books and other documents. The Unit, at present, is equipped with four xeroxing machines. Two separate photocopying



machines have also been installed in a lounge of the Central Hall of Parliament House where members can get a photocopy of any document they want at a nominal rate.

### **RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICE**

The Research and Information Division regularly brings out books, monographs, brochures, backgrounders etc. on matters of parliamentary interest, including prospective legislative measures which are likely to generate demands from members. The Division is organised into the following six functional Wings: (i) Parliamentary Affairs Wing; (ii) Practice and Procedure Unit; (iii) Journal Section; (iv) Political Affairs Wing; (v) Economic and Financial Affairs Wing; and (vi) Educational, Scientific And Social Affairs Wing.

A number of Brochures on various topics of parliamentary interest have been brought out by different Wings of this Division recently. These include "Legislative Councils in the States-their Creation and Abolition", "Broadcasting and Telecasting of Parliamentary Proceedings"; "Question Hour in Lok Sabha"; "Members of Lok Sabha- a Study in their Socio-Economic Background"; "Parliamentary Committees"; "Presidential

Elections, Law, Practice and Procedure (1952-1987); "Presidential Ordinances (1950-1989)"; "Legislators in India : Salaries and other Facilities"; "Electing the President", etc.

Research Notes are also prepared in the Research and Information Division for use at the Seminars held alongside the annual Conferences of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India and also other Conferences and Symposia organised by the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) and the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST). Some Research Notes recently brought out included "Panchayati Raj Institutions in India; the Speaker and Party Politics"; "Union-State Relations: Recent Developments, Erosion of Parliamentary System in India"; Budget Committees in Parliament and State Legislatures"; Evolution of the Office of Speaker"; "Uniform Civil Code"; "Anti-Defection Law-a Case for Review"; "Oil Crisis"; and "Constitution of India in Precept and Practice.

For the use of Indian Parliamentary Delegations going abroad on good-will visits and for participating in international Parliamentary Conferences held under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association,. Briefs and Country Notes are also prepared in this Division.

### Monographs

Monographs on subjects relating to Parliament and its functioning have also been published from time to time . With a view to reviving the memory of our eminent parliamentarians who played a distinguished role in the country's freedom struggle and who contributed so much to the building of modern India and its parliamentary system, a new Monograph series titled "Eminent Parliamentarians Monograph Series" was started in 1990. Fourteen such Monographs have been brought out in this series so far. They are on : Dr. Bhamanohar Lohia, Dr. Lanka Sundaram, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Nilakantha Das, Panampilli Govinda Menon, Bhupesh Gupta, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Shiekh Mohammad Abdullah, Dr. B.B. Ambedkar, Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, Jaisukh Lal Hathi, V.K. Krishna Menon, M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar and S.M. Joshi. These Monographs generally contain the life-sketches of the eminent parliamentarians and select speeches made by them in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and in the Constituent Assembly in the case of members of the Constituent Assembly. In some cases, articles on the dignitary by parliamentarians and other distinguished personalities from different walks of life are also included. Work on several other Monographs including those on Lal Bahadur Shastri, Y.B. Chavan, Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur,

and other dignitaries are in progress. A new Monograph Series called ' Distinguished Parliamentarians Felicitation Series ' has also been started recently. The first monograph in the Series was on Shri R. Venkataraman, the Eighth President of India.

#### Book on Rajiv Gandhi

Recently in the Eminent Parliamentarian Series, on 20 August, 1992, the Prime Minister of India, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao released a book "Rajiv Gandhi and Parliament" edited by Shri C.K. Jain, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha on the occasion of the 48th Birth Anniversary of the former Prime Minister. Besides a profile of Shri Gandhi, the book carries informative articles on various aspects of the life and times of the late leader. The book also contains texts of important speeches delivered by Shri Rajiv Gandhi in Parliament and also other speeches on significant occasions in our parliamentary history.

#### Periodicals

For the use of members, the Research and Information Division also publishes eight periodicals. The Journal of Parliamentary Information is a Quarterly which contains practice and problem-oriented articles on constitutional and parliamentary subjects from

members of Parliament and other experts in the field. It also serves as an authentic recorder of developments in practice and procedure and parliamentary events and activities in Indian and foreign Legislatures. The Digest of Central Acts is also a Quarterly containing synopsis of all Bills passed by Parliament and assented to by the President. The Digest of Legislative and Constitutional Cases, another Quarterly contains abstracts of judgements of Supreme Court and the High Courts involving interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution and certain statutes in important legislative and constitutional cases. The Abstracts of Books, Reports and Articles, also a Quarterly, contains abstracts of important books received in Parliament Library and articles appearing in journals and leading newspapers, and synopsis of important official and foreign reports including those from the UN. The Diary of Political Events is a Monthly, containing a chronology of important news items and comments appearing in daily newspapers and replies to parliamentary questions about the performance of various public sector undertakings of the Union Government. Science and Technology - News Digest, a Monthly, contains abstracts of important news items, latest books, reports, articles, replies to parliamentary questions and other literature on science and technology. I.P.G. Newsletter is a quarterly publication which keeps members informed

of the various parliamentary events and activities of the Indian Parliamentary Group, like exchange of Parliamentary Delegations, IPU and CPA Conferences, meetings, seminars, symposia, etc.

### PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICE

Parliament is essentially a people's institution and as such, its activities should get adequate coverage in the mass media so that the people are aware of the work of their elected representatives. The Press and Public Relations Wing attempts to bring the Parliament and the Press together. All matters concerning the Press Gallery of Lok Sabha, are dealt with in this Wing. Press releases on all important matters connected with the Sessions of Lok Sabha, meetings of the Parliamentary Committees and Conferences, visits of foreign Parliamentary Delegations to India and of Indian Delegations to foreign countries are also issued by this Wing.

### TELEPRINTER SERVICE

In order to keep members posted with the latest happenings in the country and abroad, particularly during the Session in Parliament, teleprinter machines,

fed by national news agencies, have been installed in Parliament House. Important News items received through those machines are collected, edited and displayed on news display boards located near the Ground Floor Library at regular intervals throughout the day.

### **CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION SYSTEM**

Vital information pertaining to the on-going business in both the Houses of Parliament is displayed on the Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) at various places of the Parliament House and Parliament House Annexe. CCTV Monitors have also been installed for the benefit of members in the rooms of Presiding Officers, Ministers, political parties, senior officers of the two Secretariats and also at various common areas like the waiting Halls, Library Reading Hall and refreshment Room. In the Central Hall, a large screen of the Hotline Projection Television has been installed to display prominently this information.

### **NEW PARLIAMENT LIBRARY BUILDING**

From its humble beginning in 1921, the Parliament Library has grown into one of the best Libraries

in the country. One single most important problem that we are facing today is that of space. We have all been feeling for the past several years that the present accommodation allotted to Parliament Library is too limited to cope with the growing volume of literature received by it. We have worked out that a minimum space of 10,000 sq.m. will be required for the proper stacking of about 3 million publications, which the Library is expected to have in the next forty years or so. The progress on a number of activities such as installation of Mainframe Computer, setting up of an enlarged video and audio Library, Microfilm Reading room, Conservation Laboratory, etc., has been very slow for want of adequate space. This being the case, we have been working on the proposal for a new Parliament Library building which could accommodate not only the multi-dimensional expansion of the collection but also several other future modernisation programmes.

The proposed Parliament Library building shall have provision for all the facilities of a modern Library. It is expected to accommodate the needs of growth oriented collections, adequate space for reception and reference desks, self-contained conservation laboratory and for computerisation of library facilities and linkage of Parliament Library with the li-



braries of State Legislatures and those of Parliaments of Commonwealth and other countries of the world and other international data-bases. A closed circuit Television network is being planned for viewing the proceedings of the House. There would be sufficient number of cubicles fully equipped with audio and video facilities and computer terminals. Conveyor belts would be provided for horizontal and vertical transportation of books and other materials.

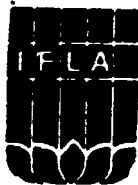
The proposed building would also have an auditorium with the capacity of about 1100 seats with a permanent screen and well-equipped projection room; a VIP reception hall for ceremonial purpose; one Press briefing room; a Media Centre with facilities of STD telephone, FAX and Telex for the use of Accredited Press Correspondents on payment basis; one Library Committee/Conference room; and Archival room having temperature below freezing point to preserve audio-visual materials, computer tapes, microfilms etc. In short, it would be a functionally viable building which would not only take care of the Library's expansion but also provide for more advanced and sophisticated information storage and retrieval systems. Various Divisions and Wings of LARRDIS will also then function from the new building to provide more efficient and better coordinated services to members.

In the meanwhile, pending construction of the new Library building, we are planning to construct temporary structures with all essential facilities for stacking Library publications. These temporary structures, located within the Parliament estate, are likely to come up shortly.

In short, we are on the threshold of a new era in information technology. We in LIBILL are gearing up ourselves to face the challenges and opportunities posed by information explosion with a sense of purposefulness and commitment, in the larger cause of serving the Parliament and its members and through them the millions who make up this country.

**IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE NEW DELHI 1992**

**Division:** GENERAL RESEARCH LIBRARIES



**Section/RT:** PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES

107-PAR(W.S) -6-E

**Joint Meeting with:**

**WORKSHOP THEME (IF APPLICABLE):**

**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE SAUSAD**

**TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY : A STUDY**

**by Shri Satish Deb Nath, Tripura Legislature secretariat**

**For internal use only:**

**Meeting No:** 134

**SI:** yes/no

**Estimated number of participants  
in the meeting:**

30-

## TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY- A STUDY

### Abstract:

The Tripura Assembly Library functions as a special library catering to the information needs of the members of the Legislative Assembly of Tripura, a small North-Eastern State formed in the year 1972. Well-equipped to serve the members and Committees of the House by providing ready reference materials on legislative procedures of the Assembly and other matters coming up before the Indian Parliament and other State legislatures, the Library, Reference and Information Service - as the Tripura Assembly Library is functionally known - renders several related services. This paper on Tripura Legislative Assembly Library elucidates detailed aspects of functions and services offered by the Library. Apart from the usual services, the Tripura Assembly Library helps the members by translating their speeches in Tribal languages and supplies them to non-tribal members. Besides, it brings out an abstracts bulletin containing abstracts of important articles appearing in journals and newspapers and prepares bibliographies too on various subjects of interests to the members on demand. The Library is considering proposals to bring out daily news bulletins, documentation lists and statistical data sheets so as to serve its clientele in a more fruitful manner.

Tripura, a Union territory, attained her Statehood in the year 1972. The erstwhile Territorial Council was raised to the status of a full-fledged State Assembly. The need of an organized Library was keenly felt at that time. As a result, a full fledged Assembly Library was organized in that year to offer special library facilities to the members of the State Assembly. The Library is under the direct control of the

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Though the Library has a good collection of books and periodicals, it is not sufficient enough to meet the various demands of the members. Due to this inadequacy the Library is largely dependent on the Library of the State High Court as that of the Law Department and the State Central Library.

By designing the bibliographical services intelligently we may serve our members better and the members also may get their information without loss of much time. The Tripura Assembly Library services, it may be pointed out here, depend largely on adequate financial assistance and engagement of qualified staff, which are at present greatly needed because of the extension of the frontiers of knowledge.

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not much. Most of the members are interested in the daily newspapers and local publications. Tribal members are particularly interested in books on agriculture and forestry. Serious readers consult the list of bibliographies prepared on different subjects, newspaper cuttings, etc. The officials of the Assembly and State Government who are also entitled to use the Library, regularly use it to resolve different problems that come before the Assembly and the Committee meetings.

(6)Proposed Bibliographical Service: At present, the Tripura Assembly Library is bringing out a monthly abstracting bulletin containing abstracts of important articles published in various journals. Besides, it prepares bibliographies/Select list on subjects of members' interest and on bills during their introduction in the House for discussion.

However, there are proposals to bring out on a regular basis lists of newly added titles in the Library collection, daily news bulletins containing important news items appearing in national dailies, and documentation lists on articles/reports/Government documents on different subjects of topical interest. Data sheets will also be prepared by compiling statistical information, on demand.

(iv) Preparation of bibliographies on important Bills coming up before the House.

The scope of the material to be collected for the use of members is normally limited to subjects which are connected with the immediate business before the House.

The Library translation section supplies the translation of the members' speeches in tribal languages to the non-tribal members within an hour or two, just after the conclusion of the speech in the House.

(5) Reading Room: The Library provides reading room facilities to its members inside the Library where a reader can consult any book or non-book material. A member can borrow 7 books at a time from the Library for a period of 30 days. Reading facilities are also extended to research scholars and high officials of the Government of Tripura and the Central Government.

Out of 60 members of the Assembly, quite a few members regularly use the Library, i.e. they regularly borrow books from the Library and seek information from the reference section. During the Session period more than 60% of the members use the Reference Section. Attendance in the reading room during the session period is satisfactory but during the inter-session period it is

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Central, State and Foreign government reports.

A classified catalogue with author/subject index is maintained in the library. A separate catalogue for government publications and reports of State Assembly and Parliamentary Committees is also maintained.

(2) Press Clipping Service: Press Clippings are prepared from 8 leading newspapers of the country and arranged in vertical files, according to subject.

(3) Library publication: At present the Library is bringing out a monthly bulletin, covering the reference of the articles of interest published in different periodicals, newspapers and Government reports and Assembly publications. This publication also contains abstracts of these articles.

(4) Reference service: The reference service undertakes the following to assist the members of the Assembly in the discharge of their Assembly work:

- (i) Compilation of factual data, statistics, etc. on special topics, involving detailed study and reference work;
- (ii) Supplying of on-the-spot references contained in published documents;
- (iii) Preparation of reference notes on important topics; and



list of additions' a small abstract of books and reports so that the members may select books by going through the abstracts without physically handling it.

Books, journals and reports for the Library are acquired on the recommendations of the Library Committee consisting of 9(nine) members. Books and other documents are mainly selected from the publishers catalogues, Indian National Bibliography and the Parliament Library Bulletin brought out by the Parliament Library, New Delhi. For selection of foreign books and journals, British National Bibliography, Times Literary Supplements and New York Times Literary Supplements are referred to.

Books are stacked in different rooms after their due classification according to the Dewey Decimal classification and arranged under the following broad subject headings:

- (a) Books in regional language
- (b) Book of Constitutions of different countries including India.
- (c) Books on different subject fields written in English.
- (d) Reference Books.

Separate arrangements have been adopted to keep Newspapers, Law reports, periodicals and

braches of knowledge.

The Library has at present 25,000 books and documents, periodicals and pamphlets for lending and consultation. A monthly list of new additions is brought out by the Library to inform the members about the latest books and reports added to the Library.

#### 4. FINANCE:

No separate budget is allocated for the Assembly Library. The expenditure of the Library is made from the Consolidated Fund of the Assembly Budget. From the above mentioned fund, an amount of Rs.. 200,000 is sanctioned to purchase books, journals and equipments. The break up of the amount is as follows:-

Books	-	Rs. 150,000
Journals	-	Rs. 25,000
Equipments	-	Rs. 25,000

Pay and allowances of the staff are met from the General Budget of the Assembly.

#### 5. SERVICES:

(1) Circulation: New books added to the Library are kept on display for a period of 15 days in the Library. During this period the books are not issued. However members can get these books reserved for use on expiry of the period of display. For the effective bibliographical organization of books, we add in the monthly

**Departments of the State Government;**

(3) To provide press clippings on important Parliamentary affairs in India, the House of Commons, and other foreign countries as well as current developments in different subject fields;

(4) To render reference service;

(5) To translate speeches of members in tribal languages and supply them to non-tribal members;

(6) To supply publications of the Assembly, viz-(a) debates, (b) Committee reports (c) copy of Speaker's Rulings, etc to members and also to other State Legislatures and Parliament;

(7) To compile a monthly library bulletin regarding new arrivals;

(8) To provide abstracting and indexing services on important articles, published in different journals and newspapers; and

(9) To provide bibliographical lists on important subjects at the time of introducing new bills in the House.

**3.COLLECTIONS:**

Books on different branches of knowledge, such as Political science, Economics, Law, Public administration, Social welfare, Geography, etc. and those of reference value are regularly acquired for the library. The Library also receives more than 50 periodicals on different

Hon'ble Speaker of the House.

Functionally known as the Library Reference and Information service, it is fairly well-equipped to serve the members in their legislative work. The membership is strictly limited to the Assmebly members. However, the high officials of the State Government and research scholars are entitled to use the library, provided that they obtain prior permission of the Secretary to the Assembly. The officials of the Assembly are also allowed to use the Library for official work.

1.OBJECTIVES:

The primary objectives of the Library is to serve the members by ready reference materials on Assembly procedure and current happenings in different State Assemblies and Indian Parliament and also to help the Assembly officials with documents and references to resolve issues that come up when the Assembly is in session. The Library is also to help Committees of the House with materials in preparing their reports. In order to fulfil these objectives, the Library is rendering the following services:

2.FUNCTIONS:

- (1) To supply information regarding Assembly matters;
- (2) To supply statistical data of the different

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Division: GENERAL RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Section/RT: PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES

108-PAR(WS)-7-E

Joint Meeting with:

WORKSHOP THEME (IF APPLICABLE):

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE SAUSAD

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY

by Shrimati S. Rajamani, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly,

For internal use only:

Meeting No: 134

SI: yes/no

Estimated number of participants  
in the meeting:

30-

147

# LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

IN

## ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

### Abstract

The Andhra Pradesh Legislature Library is one of the richest reference repositories in the state of Andhra Pradesh that caters to the information requirements of the Members, by supplying them all available sources of information like books, reports, articles, etc. in order to enable them to discharge their responsibilities effectively. Housed in an architecturally-imposing building, the Library also has a rare and valuable collection of documents from the time of Nizam's government in Hyderabad. As the present paper indicates, the emphasis is always on building the library into a dynamic living organism, capable of thinking ahead and planning new tools and services to meet the multifarious and growing needs of its special clientele. Besides, a Library Committee functions there which suggests measures for improvement and full utilisation of the library, and a research and reference services being rendered by it. One of the suggestions made by the Library Committee has been in favour of introducing automation in the library to provide quick and creative service to the legislators. The introduction of computers has strongly been recommended by the Committee and plans are being worked out for the same.

The Legislature is charged with the responsibilities of not only making laws but of critically probing into the executive functions of the State and also of exercising effective financial control over the executive.

A legislator, whether inside the House or outside it, is a bridge between the people and the government. A

well-informed Legislature since no member has no responsibility for effectively and actively to work for the legislative program. To do so, he also needs to be conversant with the needs of the people and to have the ability to work with the people.

the Government in Regulation of the National Police will refer to the subjects covered in the preceding section. The magnitude, the nature, the scope and as varied and wide as those as the functions of the State.

But her rights pointed out that the American  
Legislature is a defective body of men who were  
made for nothing of legislature and were under great  
pressure and with the law of state and of the law of  
the people. The American people are not a people of  
evolution but of revolution. The American people  
of legislative literature and their function and the  
supporting their cause.

A well-equipped Library, which is a repository of knowledge with systematically-organised collection of books and other documents on all aspects of political, social, economic and cultural life and on all aspects of constitutional and parliamentary interest is an imperative need of every Legislature.

The Library of a Legislature has to cater to the

requirements of legislators by providing them with every available source of information irrespective of whether it is published or unpublished.

ANDHRA      PRADESH      LEGISLATIVE      ASSEMBLY      LIBRARY

The Andhra Pradesh Legislature is unicameral and it has a total strength of 295 members. It has a large and well-equipped Library housed in a separate architecturally-imposing building in the Assembly premises. The Andhra Pradesh Legislature Library has the legacy of not only certain outstanding architectural designs but also holds rare and valuable collection of documents from the time of Nizami Government.

1.    FUNCTIONS:

The principal functions of the A.P. Legislature Library are acquisition, processing, preservation and dissemination of information contained in the books, periodicals, reports and other published and unpublished material from time to time. The emphasis is always on the concept of building the Legislature Library not only into a dynamic living organism serving the State Legislature but also capable of thinking ahead, planning new tools and services to meet the multifarious and growing needs of its special clientele.



There is an active Library Committee consisting of 6 Members and a Chairman, nominated by the Honble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly every year. The Committee on Library is advisory in its nature of functioning for the development of the Legislature Library to meet effectively the information needs of Legislatures.

## 2. COLLECTION

The Library has a total collection of 35,000 printed books besides thousands of reports and hundreds of volumes of debates of the State Legislature and the national Parliament.

The Library is subscribing at present to as many as 36 periodicals and 24 e-zines. The former include 10 in English, 9 in Telugu and the rest in Urdu. All the periodicals and newspapers are displayed on separate racks.

The Library has an annual budget of Rs. 200,000, out of which Rs. 75,000 are spent towards subscriptions to periodicals.

## (3) POLICY FOR COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Development of user-oriented and effective collection is a prerequisite for any Legislative library.

For this purpose it should acquire ~~(latest)~~ latest documents and organise them in such a way that the reading material receives maximum utility. In fact, the

Legislature Library reflects in its collection the entire gamut of the State and national activity in its totality.

Books and publications required for the Legislature Library are selected by the Library Committee on the basis of :

- 1) Book reviews;
2. Publishers' catalogues;
- 3) Suggestions from the Legislators; and
- 4) Visiting the local, national and international

Book Fairs

Books and other publications on subjects like law and legislature, Political Science, Public Administration, Economics, Biographies, Religion, Language and Literature (in English, Telugu and Urdu) are given priority, though all branches of human knowledge are covered. However, books on two subjects, viz. advanced Technology and Pure Science are yet to be included in its collections.

As a mark of respect and in the memory of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, a separate collection, viz. "Gandhiana Collection" is arranged to facilitate deeper study and extensive research on his life and works.

~~(iv) ORGANISATION OF COLLECTION~~

## (ii) ORGANISATION OF COLLECTION

The Library collection is classified according to Dewey Decimal Classification (20th ed.) and catalogued according to Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules II.

### 3. SERVICES:

A busy legislator hardly gets sufficient time to go through a number of volumes or papers on a particular subject. He should therefore, be supplied not only with the right information but also at the right time. Furthermore the information thus supplied should be as precise as possible. This calls for current awareness service and selective dissemination of information. These services are being offered by the Legislature Library. Member profiles on the areas of interest have been compiled. Based on its own resources, the Library has set up an exclusive Wing for developing information service, i.e. Research and Reference Wing. The purpose of the Research and Reference Wing, which is a part of the Legislature Library, is to serve the members and their information needs.

The Research and Reference Wing collects, organises and disseminates factual, objective and latest information to members of the Legislature on important legislative measures and other subjects of interest, which may be of political, constitutional, judicial and statistical nature.

The main function of this wing is to keep the

Legislators well-informed on important developments in the states of Andhra Pradesh, the country and the world.

The information is provided in the form of background notes, brief reference notes, compilation of statistical data, bibliographical information, etc. in response to the requisitions received from the members from time to time.

As part of Current Awareness Service, the Library publishes periodically 'List of accessions' to the Legislature Library containing the latest additions with subject index for the information of the members. Also Brochures and book jackets of new acquisitions are displayed on the display panel. As part of Reprographic Service, a photo-copying machine has been installed to get the copies of articles, reprints or any other document of interest to the members. P11 and UNI teleprinters have been installed to help the Members with the latest developments in and around the country.

In a nutshell, the Research and Reference Wing offers:

- (1) Comparative factual and statistical data on various subjects and departments;
- (2) Preparation of Decisions from the Chair;
- (3) Conducting of Seminars for the Legislators;
- (4) Writing of articles, and speeches on parliamentary and judicial subjects;
- (5) Bibliographic services; and
- (6) Press Clipping Services.

Another important service offered by the Research and Reference Wing is that of keeping press clippings to provide up-to-date information on diverse subjects. The press clippings are kept in the folders on the basis of *subjects to suit the requirement of* legislators. As on date, about 1000 folders are being maintained on as many as 50 subjects.

#### 4. USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Andhra Pradesh Legislature Committee on Library (1990-91) emphasised the need for automation in the Legislature Library for providing better services to the Legislators in discharging their duties as people's representatives. It strongly recommended that the computer should be introduced in the Legislature Library. The other recommendations of the Committee are installation of :

- (1) Audio Visual Equipment;
- (2) Microfilming Unit;
- (3) Airconditioning of the Library;
- (4) Construction of an Annexe Building

The Committee has given much importance to computerisation of the Legislature Library and interlinking it with national network of Parliament and Legislature Libraries. The implementation of the Committee's recommendations has been taken up in a phased manner.

#### 5. NEED FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF LEGISLATURE LIBRARIES AND THEIR SERVICES

In view of the socio-economic, educational and scientific advancement of our country, which is directly

related to information sharing and the exponential growth of knowledge, there is an urgent need for a centralised system to harness the ever increasing flow of information. This calls for modernisation of Legislature Libraries and their services. In this connection a few suggestions have been made herounder :

(1) All the Legislature Libraries in India should be computerised and they should be interlinked with each other as well as with the Parliament Library. This may be called "National Legislatures Information System".

(2) A computerised database of Parliamentary and Legislature information services should be created by the Parliamentary Library with on-line access to all the Legislature Libraries in various States. This will help the Legislature Libraries function in an efficient and effective manner.

(3) In the present day context of national and international advancements, the role of the Legislature Libraries have changed considerably.

The world of books and information has become truly International since the information needs of every country is crossing the national boundaries. International exchange of information has become inevitable because no country is self-sufficient as far as information generation is concerned. There is every need that

the Legislature Libraries should form an association and become members of IFLA to enter into the international arena for information sharing and co-operation.

(4) In view of the distinctive and complex nature of work and importance of the Legislature and its functions, the Librarians of Legislature should be given due recognition and status.

It has been felt that due to the intellectual nature of work and their valuable contribution in the Legislative process, the same status as in Universities should be given to the Legislature Librarians also.

(5) An All India Conference of Chairmen of Legislature Committees on Librarianship to be held at regular intervals to identify the problems and to find solutions to them. It would help to improve the services on advance lines.

Presented by:

Mrs. S. Rajamani,  
M.A.B.L. Sc., D.J.  
Librarian,  
A.P. Legislature  
Library,  
Public Gardens,  
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**IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE NEW DELHI 1992**



Division: GENERAL RESEARCH LIBRARIES *is*

Section/RT: PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES *A*

109-PAR(WS)-8-E

Joint Meeting with:

WORKSHOP THEME (IF APPLICABLE):

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE SAUSAD

LIBRARY REFERENCE AND RESEARCH SERVICES IN RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY

by Shri C.P. Gupta,

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SI: yes/no

Estimated number of participants  
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30-

188



LIBRARY, REFERENCE AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
IN RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY, JAIPUR

Abstract:

A well-informed legislator alone can discharge his responsibilities effectively and actively by participating in the functions carried out by the Legislature. Thus, a well-equipped and independent library is the most urgent need of every Legislature. The Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Secretariat library has been functioning since the year 1952 to fulfil the information requirements of M.L.As of Rajasthan State. Having more than 65,000 books, periodicals and other documents in its collection, the Library maintains its distinctiveness by keeping all publications written in or on Rajasthani language to promote the regional language and culture of the State. The paper highlights not only its administrative and functional set-up but also gives a detailed overview of the information and reference services being provided by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Library. Apart from compiling and disseminating information on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure, articles, court judgements, Decisions from the Chair and Privilege matters, the library brings out several publications including a library bulletin. As an important feature, the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Library organises extension service programmes too.

The Library, Reference and Research Service Branch of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly has two main sections, one is Library including Library Committee work and second is Reference and Research Section.

The main function of the library section is to collect, arrange and index the literature and to make it available to the members and others as and when required by them. This section also provides photocopying facilities free of cost to

provides photocopying facilities free of cost to them on demand. The Reference and Research section prepares and maintains the background notes, reference files and newspapers clippings on current topics. This section also provides information on various topics which helps the members in discharging their duties in the House and Committee meetings efficiently and effectively.

The LRRS Branch has many publications to its credit. There is a Library Committee to assist the Hon'ble Speaker and to keep the LRR Services according to the tastes and requirements of members.

The total number of staff members working in the LRS Branch is twenty. This Branch has 10,340 sq.ft. covered area containing one hall and thirty rooms with necessary furniture, equipments and all physical facilities.

All these assistance and facilities have created a comfortable and pleasant environment for the members in the Branch to consult the desired material and information.

1. Historical development

Library, Reference and Research Services (LRRS) in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly was

started in the year 1952 as a Library Branch of the Assembly Secretariat with the strength of one Lower Division Clerk and one peon. In the year 1958 when the erstwhile State of Ajmer was merged into the state of Rajasthan, about 2000 books of the Ajmer Assembly Library alongwith the Library staff, was transferred to this Library. In 1968, on the recommendation of the All India Whips Conference, a post of Research and Reference Officer (Now redesignated as Assistant Secretary, Research and Reference) was created to strengthen the Library Services.

In 1973, the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Rules empowered the Hon'ble Speaker to constitute a Library Committee of five Assembly members to assist the members and the Speaker in the Library matters. Between 1980 and 1992, the Assembly has increased the number of members of Library Committee from five to Ten.

In order to improve the services provided by the Library a separate Section for Reference and Research was created on 31st July, 1977 with the staff of four persons. Later in March, 1978 on the recommendation of Library Committee, this Section was integrated with the Library and this Unit was renamed as Library, Reference and Research Services Branch.

## 2. Administrative set up :

For administrative purposes, this Branch has two main Sections, One is Library (including Library Committee) Section and the other is Reference and Research Section. These two sections have been further divided into the following subsections :-

### (i) Library Service Section

1. Library Committee and Internal Administration Section
2. Acquisition and Technical Section
3. Services and Reprography Section
4. Government Publications Section
5. Periodicals & Reading Section

### (ii) Reference and Research Services Section

1. Press Clippings Section
2. Acts and Rules Section
3. Documentation Section
4. Reference Assistance Section
5. Research Section

## 3. Finance :

The Library is a part and parcel of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Secretariat and hence all expenditure incurred in this connection are being borne by the Assembly Secretariat.

Funds allocated during the last five years to the Library are as under :-

Year	Library	Binding	Furniture	Special grant	Total
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1987-88	60,000	5,000	10,000	65,000	140000
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1988-89	60,000	5,000	10000	(photo copies)	75000
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1989-90	60,000	-	-	-	1,00000
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1990-91	100,000	-	-	-	100000
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1991-92	100,000	-	40,000	100000	240000
				(books)	

#### 4. Collection

The Assembly Library has a rich collection on every discipline of knowledge generally required by the members for discharging their duties in the House and its Committee meetings. Books are normally selected for purchase on current problems relating to Constitutional law, Parliamentary procedure, Economics, Politics, History, Social sciences and other allied subjects. In Government publications Section, literature published by Government or Semi-Government agencies are being kept. Most of the Government publications are being received by the Library either free of cost or on reciprocal exchange basis. This Section mainly deals with Parliamentary Proceedings, Committee Reports, Budgets, Plans, Bills, Acts, Questions, Handbooks, Manu-

als, etc. About two thousand books including one thousand Government publications are being added every year in the Library. The total number of Books, Government publications etc as on 31 March, 1992 was as follows:-

1. Books	35,890
2. Government Publications	18,267
3. Parliamentary Proceedings	7,660
4. Bound Volumes of Periodicals	4,000 approx.
5. Maps	95
6. Reference files	567

In order to promote the regional language of the State, all publications written in or on Rajasthani Language available in the Library have been placed at one place under the caption 'Rajasthani Language.'

This apart, in order to acquaint the members with the latest developments taking place in the various fields of knowledge, the Library also subscribes to 211 periodicals. The details of all these are given below:

1. Reading Room	138
2. Additional newspapers for session period	11
3. Residences of Officers	47
4. Hon'ble Speaker's office	1
5. Newspapers for Clippings	14

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#### 5. Technical Work:

For the classification of the reading material kept in the Rajasthan Assembly Library, Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme is being

followed with minor modifications to meet the local needs. For the purpose of Cataloguing, Rules of R.L.A. Catalogue are used. The Library has also published its printed Catalogue in six Volumes upto 1973. Since 1973, regular cyclo-styled classified lists of books under a separate publication 'Library Bulletin' are being circulated to members free of cost.

With a view to minimising the loss and to ensure the availability of reading material in the library, physical verification of books is conducted normally after every third or fourth year.

#### 6. Membership:

The Rajasthan Assembly Library is mainly meant for use by the Rajasthan Assembly members and the members of Parliament representing the State. But the offices and other employees of the Secretariat may also make use of it. As per library Rules with the Special permission of the Hon. Speaker, Ex.-M.L.As, or M.Ps who had earlier represented the State can also become its members after depositing Rs. 100/- as security money which is refundable. The Hon'ble Speaker may also permit in the inter session period, any Research Scholar to use Library facilities within its premises. The existing number of the

Library borrowers are as under:-

S.no.	Category	Number
1.	Members of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly	200
2.	Members of Parlaiment representing the State:	35
	Lok Sabha	25
	Rajya Sabha	10
3.	Secretariat Staff	325
4.	Ex. M.L.As, Ex. M.Ps	12
5.	Research Scholars	5
		<hr/> 577

#### 7. Facilities & Services .

(i) Opening hours. Library, Reference and Research Services Branch generally remains open from 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. the office hours of the Assembly Secretariat. During Assembly session, it remains open from two hours before the scheduled time of the sitting of the house till the sitting of the day is adjourned.

(ii) Reading Services: The Library has a well-furnished Reading Room with a capacity of 40 seats. Around 138 current periodicals covering practically every subject of interest are displayed there. Besides, the Library is also equipped with a well-furnished separate study-room attached with the stacks room for serious study. There is also a Consultation Counter attached to the main Counter and Reading Room where members can sit and consult the reading material. In the stacks room, some tables and



chairs have also been provided at suitable points for readers to consult the books required for reference purposes.

(iii) Display work: To acquaint the readers with new arrivals in the Library, there are six display points at two different places. One is at the entrance of the library and the second is at the entrance facing the lift. Book jackets are regularly displayed at these points on display boards. Similarly, display racks have also been kept near the counter in which 'New books' and 'In demand' books are placed regularly.

(iv) Open Access System: There is a circulation counter, near the Entrance Hall of the Library from where readers can get books, periodicals and Government publications on loan as per rules.

(v) Reprography Service. The Library has a provision of providing photocopies of newspaper clippings, policy document, etc. free of cost to the members on request so as to enable them to substantiate their arguments in the House and Committee meetings with relevant papers. For this purpose the Library has a Xerox copier.

(vi) Legislative Service: To assist the members in their legislative work, the library

has also prepared alphabetically, year-wise and subject-wise indexes of Rajasthan Assembly Acts, Ordinances, and Bills in the Linedex Apparatus. Similarly in order to prepare the historical development of each Rajasthan Act, a separate card containing necessary information of the concerned Act is under preparation. These cards are being filled in Kardex Cabinet. For detailed study of the Rajasthan Acts, separate files are also being prepared for each Act. Each file will contain all the related documents & information such as a copy of the Ordinance, Bill, Debate, etc. of the concerned Act for ready reference purposes. To provide latest position of all Acts of Rajasthan State, three sets of the Rajasthan Code are also being kept up-to date with the help of correction slips.

(vii) Newspaper Clipping Service Members of the Assembly often require background information relating to various important events attracting their interest so as to emphasize their view point during the debates in the House or while participating in the deliberations in the meetings of various Committees of the House. To meet such requirements, the Branch is presently subscribing to 12 newspapers and two other periodicals to maintain upto-date files of newspaper clippings. At present 225 files on se-

lected topics are being maintained by the section. The clippings are not permitted to be taken out but are provided for consultation in the Branch. Xerox copies of the clippings can be made available free of charge to them on demand.

(viii) Documentation service: Documentation list, Reference file and folders are prepared in the Assembly Library on topics of current events which are likely to be discussed in Seminars, Symposia, Conferences, Committee meetings and in the House for the use of members and participants. In the year 1991-92 about 50 such files were prepared.

(ix) Research Service: Presiding Officers of the Assembly generally need detailed notes on parliamentary practice & procedure and speeches to be delivered on various occasions. Written articles are also required to be sent for publication in various Journals. In 1991 about 15 such research notes, speeches and articles were prepared by the Research section of this Branch on demand.

#### 8. Extension Services:

Apart from its routine functions LRRS Branch also organises extension service programmes. Some of them are as follows -

(a) A Silver Jubilee function was organised by

the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in 1978 at the time of completion of its first twenty-five years. On that occasion, a Souvenir in two volumes containing articles on parliamentary practices and developments of various activities of the Assembly was published.

(b) During the course of Congress Centenary celebrations in 1985, an exhibition was organised by the Celebration Committee at Sawai Man Singh Stadium, Jaipur. A grand exhibition pavilion was put up to depict the functioning of the legislature in promoting Parliamentary Democracy and protecting the rights of citizens.

(c) Similarly, on completion of the first forty years of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, a tele-film of thirty-two minutes duration was also got prepared in 1992. Video Cassettes of this film have also been got prepared for the use of members. This film revives important events highlighting evolution and achievements of parliamentary democracy in the state of Rajasthan.

#### 9. Publications:

The LRRS Branch publishes the following publications regularly.:

(a) Who's who: It contains brief biographical details of the members of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. Five volumes of this publication (4th

Legislative Assembly to 8th Legislative Assembly) have been published so far. The sixth volume relating to 9th Legislative Assembly is under preparation.

(b)Rajasthan Legislative Assembly: In figures: It contains segment wise statistical data of business conducted by the House, its Committees and various Branches of Assembly Secretariat. Three volumes relating to the period, from the 1st to the 7th Assemblies, have been published so far. The Fourth volume relating to the tenure of 8th Assembly is in press.

(c)Digest of Rajasthan Acts: It is an annual publication which contains the details of Bills passed by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly and assented to by the Governor of Rajasthan State or the President of India as the case may be. Two yearly volumes relating to the period 1978 and 1990 have been published so far. Two volumes relating to the period 1989 and 1991 are in press.

#### 10,Library Committee:

In order to make the Library services upto the expectations and requirements of the members, the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on 24 March, 1973 incorporated a new provision, viz. 253 A & B in its Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Busi-

ness for constituting a Library Committee of members. As per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, the provisions regarding the Constitution of the Library Committee and its functions are as follows:

"253 (a) Constitution of Library Committee

(1) There shall be a Library Committee consisting of not more than Ten members including the Chairman. (2) The Committee shall be nominated by the Speaker and the term of office of its members shall not exceed one year:

Provided that a Minister shall not be nominated a member of the Committee and that if a member after his nomination to the Committee, is appointed a Minister he shall cease to be member of the Committee from the date of such appointment.

"253(b) Functions of the Committee:- The functions of the Library Committee shall be -

(1) To consider and advise on such matters concerning the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Library and the Research and Reference Branch as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time.

(2) To consider suggestions for the improvement of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Library

and the Research and Reference Branch.

(3) To assist members of the Assembly in fully utilising the services provided by the Library and the Research and Reference Branch.

Since 1973 the Hon'ble Speaker constitutes a Library Committee every year. As a matter of convention, the Library Committee invites suggestions from the members for improving the Library services or the system in vogue. Time to time meetings of the Committee are held. The Committee pays visits to other libraries situated within and even outside the State to make first hand observation of the services provided by other libraries so that new services/facilities could be added to this Library.

#### 12. Building:

Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Library is yet to have its own separate building. Presently it is functioning in the basement area of the main building of the Legislative Assembly. Though the available accommodation is not sufficient, with some minor modifications and alterations, it has been made to meet the present basic LRR Services requirements. The total covered area available to the Library, Research & Reference Unit is about 10,340 sq. ft. which consists of:

1. Hall .....1
2. Big Rooms.....17

### 3. Rooms.....13

All these rooms are airy and equipped with either natural or artificial lighting arrangements.

### 13 Furniture & Equipment:

On the recommendations of the Library Committee, modern furniture and equipment have been purchased in recent years to make the optimum use of the reading material and provide a comfortable and pleasant environment. These include display boards, racks specially designed for library, vacuum cleaner, Kardex, Linedex, wooden tables specially designed for reading purposes and Xerox photocopier. Installation of Computer and Teleprinter Machines in the Library is also under active consideration.

In a nutshell, the Library, Reference & Research Branch of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Secretariat with its comfortable physical facilities, pleasant environment and well-stocked reading material provides to the members usual loan facilities and bibliographical information, assists them with objective and reliable reference material to discharge their duties effectively and helps the Assembly officers in taking decisions on important matters.



# **The needs of university libraries in developing countries.**

G G Allen

Curtin University of Technology

At the Paris Conference in 1989 the Standing Committee of the Section of University Libraries took note of the situation of university libraries in developing countries as it had been described by Bart Nwafor and decided to seek funds for study to see what might be done to achieve some improvement. As particular concern had been expressed about the difficulties these libraries were having in purchasing books and serials, collection issues were singled out for special attention.

The study has taken the form of a questionnaire survey of university libraries in developing countries, supplemented with a second questionnaire to member libraries of the Section of University Libraries, and the gathering of information from or about agencies that are providing aid-in-kind to libraries in the developing world. A detailed report has now been presented to the Standing Committee which is considering its response to the eight recommendations for further action.

The questionnaire to university libraries in developing countries was mailed to 365 libraries in the 135 poorest countries as defined by gross national product (GNP) per capita. Libraries in Europe, east and west, were consciously excluded from the survey, although it was recognised that some would have qualified on the primary criterion. A disappointing response was received, from only 67 libraries, but these were well distributed through Africa, Latin America and Asia. Although this is a relatively small sample, and despite the fact that some libraries failed to answer a number of the questions asked, there was still sufficient data to justify analysis.

The picture that emerged from the analysis is overwhelmingly one of overcrowded libraries with inadequate collections, and even less adequate acquisitions programmes. This may surprise no one, even though there are a few exceptions to the general state of deprivation. Staffing is not such a pressing problem, at least so far as numbers are concerned, but there were expressions of need for better trained staff and for training assistance or facilities. Equipment, and especially computer equipment, is frequently mentioned as a need, and the problem of maintenance is recognised.

While this survey sought first to get some numerical measure of collection standards which might be compared with libraries in developed countries, and then be used to identify those most in need, we also sought information about the present availability of aid, or other means to offset the collection inadequacies. A considerable proportion of responding libraries reported that they were in fact receiving aid of one kind or another. Books and journals were the most often cited form of aid, but libraries have also received equipment, funds for buildings or other purpose, and assistance with staff training. Many libraries have received

aid from more than one source, and about half of those responding to this question expected the aid to continue.

The most obvious mechanism for offsetting a collection inadequacy, at least according to the wisdom of developed countries, is inter-library lending, or more precisely if the library has a generally inadequate collection, inter-library borrowing. We therefore asked questions about the level of ILL, and specifically ILL in an international context. The response indicates a very low level of ILL activity, for perhaps three main reasons. Firstly the local and regional environments of many developing world libraries do not contain other libraries from which borrowing could take place to any extent. Secondly the costs of borrowing from the developed countries are considerable, often requiring hard currency, and the developing world libraries cannot afford this alternative to purchase. Lastly the deprived libraries lack access to sophisticated communications systems which now carry much of the international ILL traffic, or the funds to tap into these systems, and the alternative postal systems are unreliable, slow and also expensive.

Our supplementary survey of developed world libraries sought to discover whether libraries had materials available for disposal, and if so whether they were already donating them to developing world libraries, or would be willing to. Again some 360 libraries, in 78 countries, were sent the questionnaire, although a number of these were in fact in developing rather than developed countries. Again the response from only 67 libraries was disappointing. Nevertheless it appears that many libraries are already sending their surplus materials to other libraries or to book aid agencies. While this may appear to be encouraging it may in fact mean that potential library sources of books and journals are already being tapped and that there is little likelihood of an increased flow of materials from this source. Moreover most developed country libraries indicated that they could not meet the costs of organising or shipping unwanted materials, while a number expressed firm opinions that the materials that they did have for disposal would be of limited value to developing country libraries.

From a variety of sources we also collected information on the activities of agencies already supplying materials to developing country libraries. Generally these are not limited to university libraries, while some programmes also cover other materials such as equipment, paper etc, and/or the provision of funds. It would seem that there are well developed mechanisms for the organisation and delivery of aid-in-kind, and we have concluded that it would be counter-productive to propose the establishment of any additional mechanisms. Developing world libraries desirous of receiving aid should contact one of the established organisations, and to this end we have listed such details as we received or identified in our report.

Our assessment of the situation in the developing world, based on the data we have assembled but also supported in much of the literature we have consulted, is that the state of many developing world university libraries is near to if not already disastrous, and is getting worse. It is clear that these libraries cannot support even basic undergraduate

programmes with either adequate quantities of, or up to date, reading materials. Even less can they support research studies or staff research activities as these are understood in the universities of the developed countries. Despite the data provided on postgraduate students and courses it is fairly well established in the literature that there is relatively little significant research going on in much of the developing world. We believe therefore that it would be helpful to consider the library problems in servicing undergraduates and in supporting research separately.

We have made eight formal recommendations to the Standing Committee. The first two are concerned with making our report available, freely to those libraries in the developing countries that responded to our questionnaire, and for other interested parties through publication in some form.

In our other six recommendations we have proposed attacks on three distinct problem areas in library provision in the developing world. The first of these, and we suggest the most important, is to do something about the inadequacy of resources for undergraduate study, for unless first degree students can get an adequate education with access to up to date thinking, there is little hope that postgraduate or advanced studies and research can be meaningfully developed. Therefore we are proposing efforts to identify a limited number of key texts, in core subjects, concerning which negotiations should be started with publishers for the mass production of copies at the minimal marginal costs, for supply only to libraries in designated developing countries. Even then such a programme would need funding, but we consider that the libraries, and the governments, of developing countries should make these materials a clear priority. With such a commitment it might be possible to obtain further assistance from developed nations or international agencies.

Our second basic recommendation is to attack the communications problem of developing country libraries so that they can get access to the rapidly expanding body of bibliographic and primary information in electronic formats. This involves consideration of a number of mechanisms and current barriers. It is our perception that the technical issues are resolvable at a reasonable cost as access to satellite systems is now achievable with relatively modest installations that could be afforded by individual libraries. Similarly the equipment to operate CD-ROM resources is now relatively cheap, robust and easy to operate. However any of the possible options runs into two significant difficulties. Firstly there are considerable ongoing costs for communications, database access, or the purchase of CD discs etc. We propose that a concerted approach to data base producers and operators, and to communications agencies, be made to seek access for developing country university libraries at no or greatly reduced costs. The second problem is that of equipment maintenance. We perceive this as an endemic problem in many developing countries which do not have, and are not like to have in the foreseeable future, the technical expertise, nor the internal demand to encourage its development. Nevertheless we see the availability of air transport as a potential saviour and are proposing that special service centres be established in several air traffic nodes, in appropriate developed countries, possibly e.g. in London, Chicago and Singapore.

from which technical experts could be rapidly deployed to developing country libraries in need of service support.

All the foregoing propositions will of course need funding as well as considerable amounts of good will. Nevertheless we believe that using funds in such constructive and coordinated projects would achieve very much more than the distribution almost randomly of small parcels of aid funds.

Lastly we recognise that in both the short and longer term the libraries of the developing countries need staff who have had experience and training in the emerging technologies of information management and supply. We see the need especially to enhance the skills and experience of junior and middle level staff, both professional librarians and support staff, as potentially the most productive area, and we propose that libraries in the developed world open their doors to such staff to work on an internship basis for periods of between three and six months. Again of course funding is required, for travel and for accommodation and living expenses, but we believe that mechanisms exist or can be found that can address these needs.

We are aware that our conclusions may not satisfy those of our colleagues in developing countries who are looking for massive injections of aid, in one form or another, to solve their problems. World wide the scale of the problem is so large, and the realistic levels of available aid so limited, that we do not believe that aid-in-kind or in funds will make much of an impression overall. Moreover the nature of information is such that the problem for libraries is a never-ending one, and we believe it is both unrealistic to expect, and politically, socially and intellectually undesirable, that developing world libraries should be permanently sustained by hand-outs from the developed world. The objectives of aid should therefore be to assist developing country libraries to achieve a viable independence. From our initial position of seeking to identify which libraries are most inadequate, and therefore arguably most in need of aid, we have moved to the view that more good will be done by focusing appropriate aid on those libraries and countries which have the best, or at least a reasonable, chance of developing and maintaining the minimally adequate resources and services. We therefore urge IFLA, and other national and international bodies, to take realistic decisions on a basis of fact, and to reject emotional responses. The purpose of aid should not be to salve the consciences of developed countries, but to effect real and lasting improvements in the lot of developing countries, and we hope our recommendations may receive support to that end.

## RESEARCH DATABASE

### The Finnish Universities' Research Database Project

Päivi Kytömäki  
University of Oulu  
Finla. 1

The research database project started in 1989 with the aim of creating a research register with a uniform data content to serve all the university-level institutions in Finland. The Ministry of Education is supporting and directing the project in order to ensure that the register will serve all the universities and prevent the overlapping of planning at the various universities.

The research database system should be a data system which enables reliable, accurate and up-to-date information on individual research projects to be found continually and quickly. Thus it will improve access to information concerning research planned and in progress in Finland, and facilitate its reporting. It will also complement the national and international scientific information services, prevent unnecessary overlapping research and be of use in the planning of scientific policy.

The research databases are formed in accordance with the special needs of each individual university, and each university will assume responsibility for the maintenance of its own database. The databases are required to possess a certain uniformity with respect to structural content; they must be checked and revised to conform with the EC directive concerning the content of research databases. Thus, information would be at the disposal of all those who need it in as flexible a manner as possible and later it would be possible to assemble all the databases into one national, centralized system if need be.

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## **RESEARCH DATABASES**

### **The Finnish Universities' Research Database Project**

**Kytömäki, Päivi**  
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#### **Introduction**

Bibliographical databases have been in general use in the field of library and information services for approx. 20 years, in addition to which other types of database have been introduced, covering facts, research in progress, institutions and expert advisors. Research project and expert databases account for approx. 80 out of the 5000 listed in the first Directory of Online Databases of 1992. Data on research going back even to the late 1960's are available in some databases, but most cover the period from the late 1980's to the present day. The majority of the databases originate in Canada, the United States and Europe, although numerous corresponding databases also exist in Japan, for instance. Usually the databases cover only certain topics, and often only a narrow sub-field within them. Examples of large databases include 1) Current Research in Britain, which includes data on over 75,000 projects in progress at over 500 universities, polytechnics and private and public institutes, and 2) Japanese Government and Public Research in Progress, containing data on over 20,000 scientific and technical research projects at approx. 600 Japanese universities and public and private laboratories.

The aim of this paper is to present the plan for a research database for the Finnish universities. I will discuss in particular the general aims of the project and the information to be contained in the database, and finally provide a general review of the possible uses of databases and their advantages, especially in developing countries.

The need for records of research work carried out in Finland has been acknowledged since the mid-1970's, and two extensive proposals have been made (Committee Report 1976; Nyrhinen & Ylinen 1987), the latter of which formed the basis of a recommendation from the Ministry of Education as to the content of such a database (Letter from the Ministry of Education, 10.3.1989). It was nevertheless not until 1989 that the first practical steps in this

direction were taken, when the Ministry of Education and the Universities of Helsinki and Oulu began to draw up a joint record of research taking place in university-level institutions throughout Finland. The aim was to create a system which would serve all the universities and comparable institutions and help to avoid duplicated planning work.

The report of the first working group and the first version of the database were completed in summer 1991, after which the report was circulated among the universities for their comments. Then, in spring 1992, the Ministry of Education appointed a new working group, of which the present author is a member, to monitor the project. The tasks of this group are 1) to monitor and coordinate the work of setting up research databases in the various universities and colleges, 2) to ensure that the databases concerned are comprehensive, up-to-date and properly maintained, 3) to attend to the problem of links with other databases, especially those in use in libraries, and 4) to extend the opportunities for using these research databases via Finnish and international data transmission networks.

### Objectives

The research database system should be such that it enables reliable, accurate and up-to-date information on individual research projects to be found quickly at any time and allows statistics to be compiled on them. Thus it should improve access to information concerning research planned and in progress in Finland and facilitate its reporting. It should also complement the national and international scientific information services, prevent unnecessary overlapping research and be of use in the planning of scientific policy.

The Ministry of Education sets out from the idea that each institution of higher education should set up its own database according to its particular needs, although a certain level of compatibility should be expected between them both, in data structure and in the technical solutions employed, so that the information on research can be made most readily available to those who need it. A sufficient level of conformity in content would also facilitate the construction of a joint database later, should such a decision be reached.

### Content and functions of the research database

When the informational content of the database was planned, the most significant user

groups and their needs were taken into account. The Ministry of Education made recommendations as to the content of the database in 1989, but they must now be checked and revised to conform with the EC directive concerning the content of research databases published in 1991, since Finland is an European country and has applied for membership of the European Community.

The recommendations of the EC directive refer to the following content:

**I Obligatory data**

**1. Administrative data**

- owner of the database (code and/or name)
- latest updating date
- completeness of the research data

**2. Identification of the research project**

- control number (identifies access to data)
- identifier of the research project (country code + registration code)
- original language of the research (language in which the information was originally provided: two-digit code ISO/DIS 639)
- other languages (languages in which information can be obtained: two-digit code ISO/DIS 639)

**3. Data connected with the content of the project**

- title in the original language
- title in the other language(s)
- abstract in the original language
- abstract in the other language(s)
- person responsible
- other researchers
- date of commencement
- assumed date of termination

**4. Data concerning the institution carrying out the research**

- name of research institution (official complete name in the original language; if several levels of organization, at least the lowest level at which the work is actually being carried out should be mentioned)
- address of the institution (also country code)
- telephone, telefax, telex, electronic mail



**5. Data related to the classification of the investigation**

- free keywords
- controlled keywords (the Research Thesarus)
- Common European Research Classification Scheme

**6. Financial data**

- source of finance (name of organization and any code available for it)
- amount of finance obtained (in the currency of the country in question and possibly in ECUs)
- number of full-time researchers - man-years

**II Optional data**

- connections with other research projects (parent project)
- collaborators
- principal results (at the present stage, e.g. number of publications, patents and prototypes)
- special equipment used
- other relevant data

The University of Oulu has proposed the following additions, which are already taken into account in the university's own version:

- Academic degree of the researchers: should be a separate search criterion.
- Confidentiality: a classification should be given indicating what information about the research can be released.
- Expensive pieces of equipment used: details should be given of any items of equipment costing over FIM 100,000 which are required for the research.
- Register of experts: mention should be made of the names of experts consulted, the organizations which they represent, their field of expertise, their experience in years and their academic degrees.
- Classifications (OECD, UNESCO, NLM, UDC etc.)
- Published works of the projects

Universities may include other information according to their own needs.

The principal functions of the software are guidance, database maintenance and data search. The aim of the data search function is to make the database as easy to use as possible, employing Help menus to enable entry data to be accessed. A search may be based on any of the above data or on the content of the abstract.

### **System environment**

The Oulu database is designed to operate in a microcomputer network, the proper functioning of which requires the database computer to have a class 80386 or 80486 processor, at least 8 Mb of main memory and at least 200 Mb of hard disc space.

A research database can be of either a relation or a text type. The flexibility of the transfer facilities should be taken into account when selecting the data management system to be used. Since there is no national register, it is essential that outsiders should be allowed access to local systems. This is achieved in Oulu by means of gateway computers which the person requiring information can contact in order to reach the actual database machine via the network.

### **Updating and maintenance**

Each university or college will make its own arrangements regarding the updating of the database and responsibility for its maintenance. In the case of the University of Oulu this task has been thought to the University Library at the present stage which at present is responsible for storing the data on the published works of staff members for the university's annual report. Primary updating can either be centralized in the library or dispersed among the departments in the form of temporary files to be incorporated in the library's database after checking and classification. No decision has yet been reached in Oulu on detailed updating procedures.

Plans exist in the University of Oulu whereby the library's information specialists would be responsible for classifying the research projects and perhaps to some extent for assigning the keywords.

### **Further steps**

The Universities of Helsinki and Oulu will continue to develop their databases and test them in practice during 1992, financed by the Ministry of Education. The aim in Oulu is also to combine the university's research and publication databases as soon as possible.

The universities, the Ministry of Education, the Central Statistical Office of Finland and the agencies financing research each collect very similar data from the researchers and departments at the various universities every year, which is very frustrating and annoying from the point of view of the researchers themselves. The working group engaged in planning the Finnish research register has the ambitious aim of coordinating this data acquisition with that carried out for the research register, and finally of attaining the ideal of a comprehensive university database, the sub-databases of which would include research-in-progress databases, a register of experts, a list of university publications and statistical data.

It was also proposed in the final report of 1991 that the individual databases should be combined into a national one. The Ministry of Education has for the moment backed down from its efforts to achieve a central database, but the question will certainly have to be reconsidered at some stage.

#### Use and advantages of research databases

The comprehensive use of a research data base requires that it can be reached by means of a communications network and that the data are included at least in national database directories and preferably in international ones. The users of databases can be divided at least into the following groups: 1) political decision makers at the national and international levels and universities, 2) persons responsible for the research, e.g. research/project directors, 3) the researchers themselves, and 4) institutions applying and utilizing the research, e.g. trade and industry.

The database provides political decision makers with data on the quantity and comprehensiveness of the research being carried out in various fields for coordination and financing purposes. Information on research promotes the transfer of technical and scientific data at the national and international levels and enables people responsible for research to familiarize themselves with projects which may be useful for their work and to find researchers specialized in some particular subject. It can also prevent overlapping in research and planning. For a researcher, the register is a versatile source of potential innovations.

I cite the German article of Rolf Volmerig of 1991: "New information is produced daily at universities and research institutes, and innovative technical development is carried out at these. The results of this work provide significant opportunities to solve technical, ecological and economic problems. What is crucial is not the constantly accelerating pace of data production, but the rapid and efficient transfer of new scientific results into practice." The rapid and efficient utilization of intellectual and economic resources to the maximum extent is vital for developing countries and especially valuable for their economy, so that rationally compiled and utilized research registers can play a significant role in building up the welfare of developing countries.

These research databases can also be expected to provide assistance to libraries and information services in their retrieval problems associated with this "grey area" in scientific knowledge.

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